ウロボロス
ouroboros
警察ヲ裁クハ我ニアリ
Yuya Kanzaki
神崎裕也
12

DESIGN: TAKEUCHI RYOSUKE [CRAZY FORCE]

ウロボロス

ouroboros

警察ヲ裁クハ我ニアリ

12

Yuya Kanzaki

神崎裕也

BUNCH COMICS

ウロボロス

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12

神崎裕也

Yuya Kanzaki

新潮社

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囚われた竜哉の前に現れたのは手負いで動けないはずのイクオだった。感情を制御できない暴走状態でゼロに襲い掛かる。果たして、囚われた竜哉をイクオは無事救い出せるのか!? 金時計事件の真相に迫る【ゼロ編】遂に決着！
特別読切「三島課長の事件簿」も収録。

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Yuya Kanzaki

Name: Hibino Miduki
Affiliation: Tōkyō MPD Criminal Investigation Bureau, First Division
Rank: Assistant Inspector

Name: Danno Tatsuya
Affiliation: Danno Family (first-rank branch, Abiko Group)
Title: Family Leader

Name: Ryūzaki Ikuo
Affiliation: Tōkyō MPD Criminal Investigation Bureau, First Division
Rank: Sergeant

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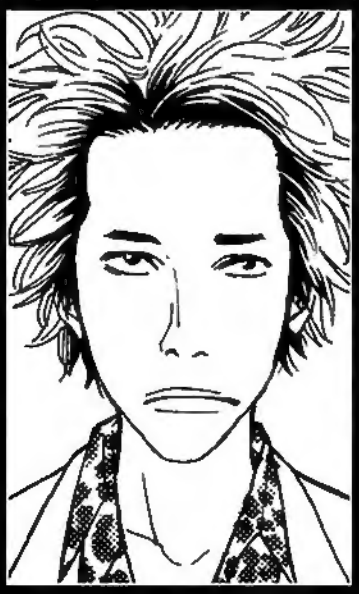
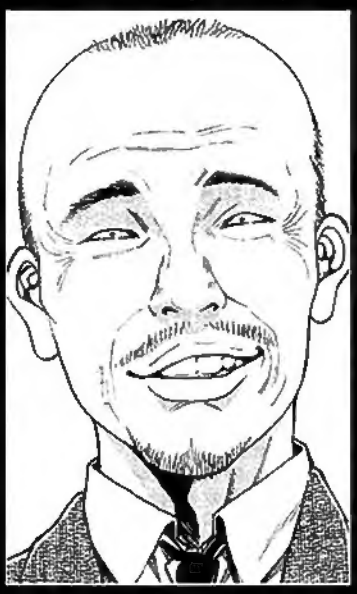


Name: Yamashirō Hayato
Affiliation: Yamashirō Syndicate
Title: Heir of the Boss and member of the leadership



Name: Mishima Kaoru
Affiliation: Shinjuku Second Division, Criminal Investigation Section
Rank: Inspector
Position: Section Chief

Name: Bandō Shirō
Affiliation: Tōkyō MPD Criminal Investigation Bureau, First Division
Rank: Inspector

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CAST & STORY

Name: Gold Watch
No data

Name: Oshitari Kōji
Affiliation: National Police Agency Security Bureau, Security Planning Division (Zero)
Rank: Superintendent

Name: Mamoru Ganaha
Affiliation: National Police Agency Security Bureau, Security Planning Division (Zero)
Rank: Superintendent

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STORY

Ryuzaki Ikuo and Danno Tatsuya carry the burden of a past in which their most beloved person, Yuiko-sensei, was murdered and the crime was covered up by the police. Fifteen years passed... in order to uncover the secret behind the case, and the identity of the "man with the gold watch" who orchestrated the cover-up, Ikuo became a detective and Tatsuya joined the yakuza.

Having been transferred from Shinjuku's Second Division to the MPD Headquarters Criminal Investigation Bureau, First Division, the misfit duo Ikuo and Hibino Miduki, under the guidance of their new chiefs, Inspector Bando and Superintendent Tachibana, pass their days dealing with cases and professional chores. Meanwhile, within the MPD, the atmosphere becomes tense as a power dispute unfolds between the "Superintendent General" and "Deputy Superintendent General" factions.

In parallel, the "Twin Dragons", Ikuo and Tatsuya, pursue the connection between the "Zero" division of Public Safety and "Gold Watch", and come closer to obtaining information about his identity in the upper echelons of the MPD. Their fight enters an even more grueling stage!

Ikuo and Tatsuya took Yamashiro Hayato, who had been hiding in the Tokyo Cosmoland park, under their protection. The three were going to leave the place immediately, but the tentacles of evil, Zero, had already reached that far...

After Ganaha shoots him and Ikuo receives a serious wound, Tatsuya leaves him under the care of Miduki and sets out to challenge Zero and so exact the revenge he sought for many years. Having the haunted house attraction "Hotel Desperate" as its stage, the fight of Tatsuya and Hayato versus Oshitari and Ganaha begins. In the first hour of the fierce battle that ensues, Tatsuya is cornered but, with help from Hayato, he brings Ganaha down in the end. This only leaves Oshitari, but...

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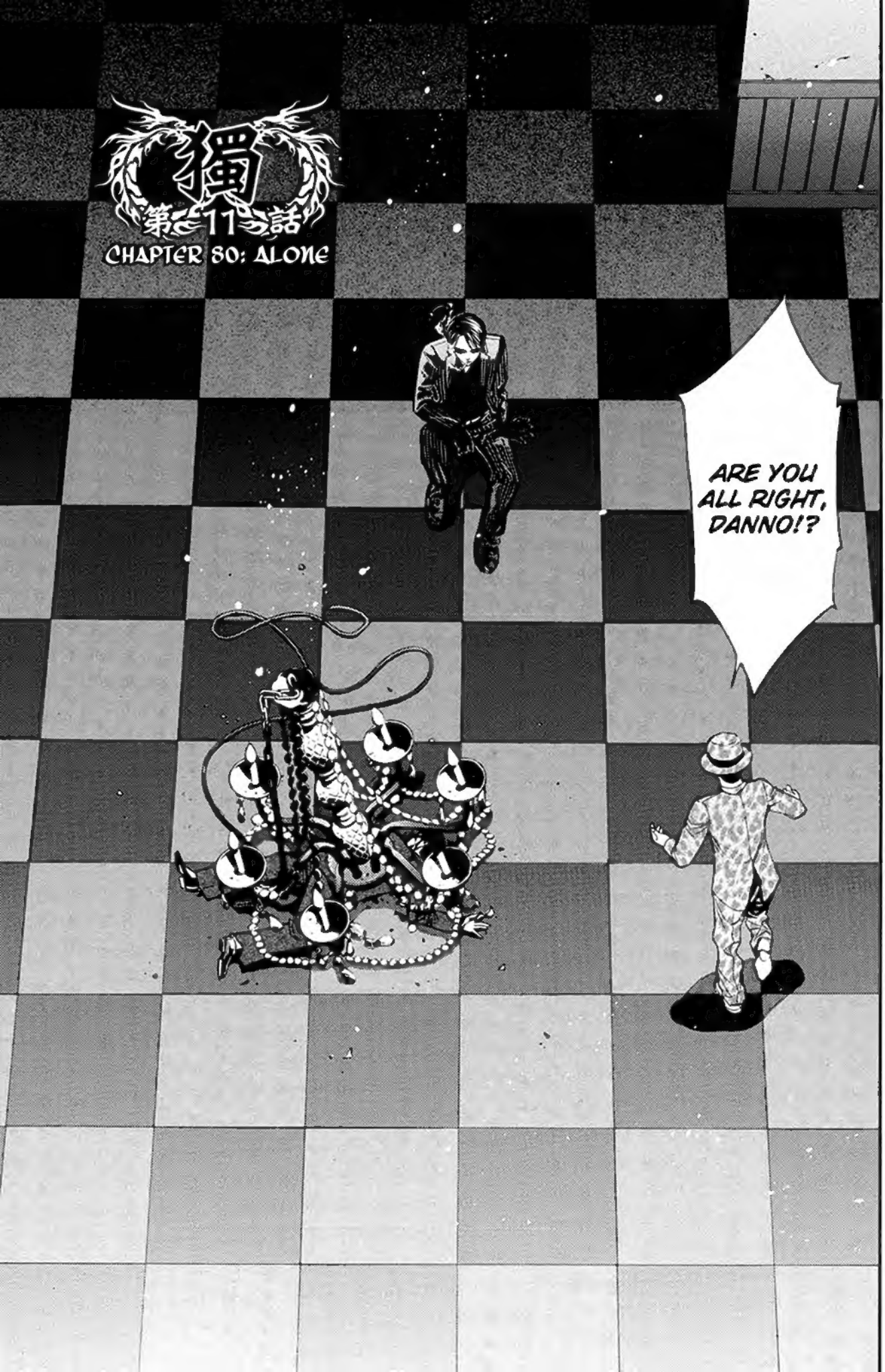
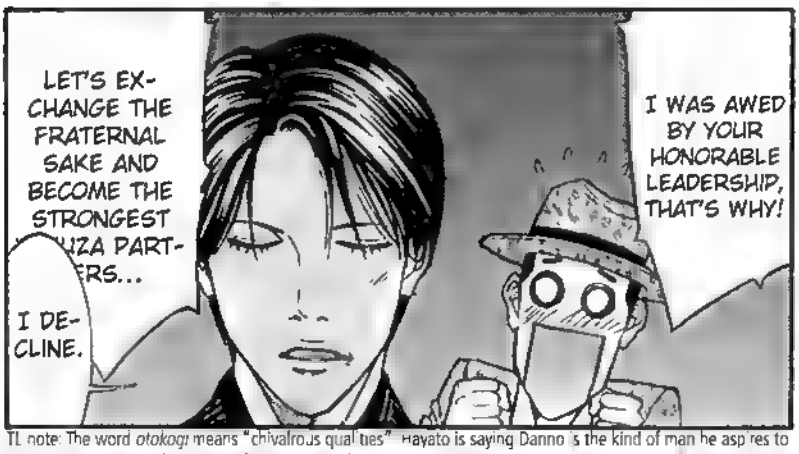

獨
第11話
CHAPTER 80: ALONE
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, DANNO!?

SOMEHOW, I AM...
YEAH...
FOR LOSING YOUR METTLE AND RUNNING AWAY? DON'T SWEAT IT.
I THINK I OWE YOU AN APOLO-GY...
AH...o YOU SEE...
Hehe!
!!
.....
.....
WHA!? HOW CAN YOU TALK TO ME LIKE THAT!?
IN ANY CASE, I WASN'T EXPECTING MUCH FROM A HINDRANCE LIKE YOU.
SFX: stare...

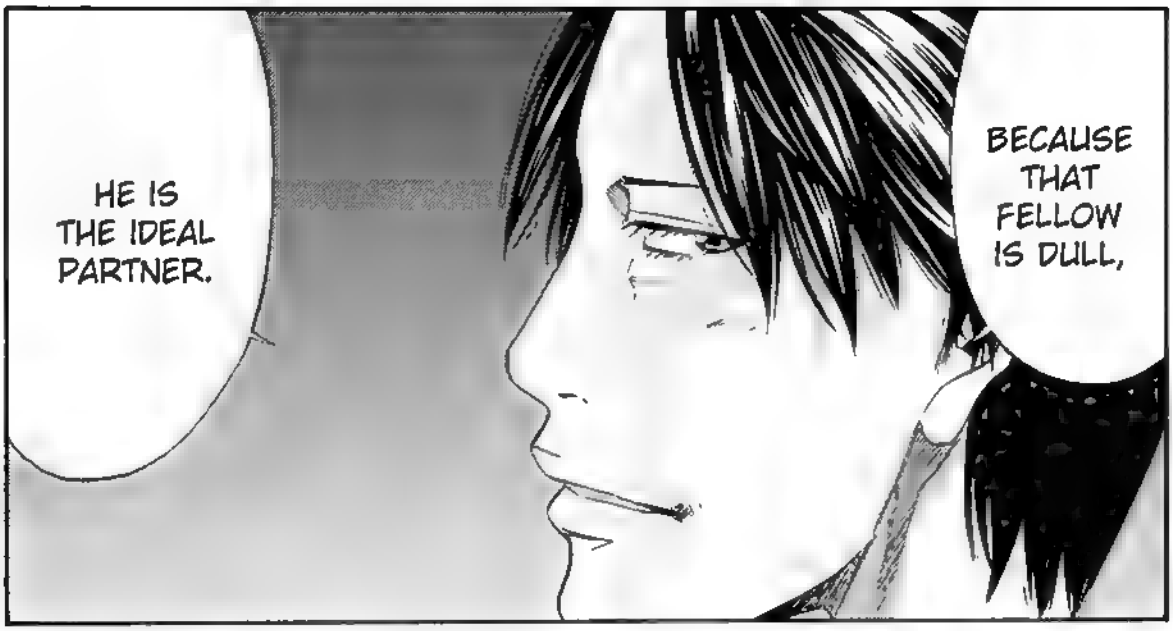
IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YOU TWO, I WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED BY ZERO A LONG TIME AGO...! HOW PITIFUL...!!
WHAT A GREAT SUCCESSOR TO THE YAMASHIRO SYNDICATE I WILL MAKE... SHIT!
...YOU'RE RIGHT.
IT'S JUST AS YOU SAY.
IF YOU HADN'T BEEN THERE, I WOULD HAVE DIED, TOO.
IT WAS BECAUSE OF YOUR ASSISTANCE THAT I WAS ABLE TO TAKE GANAHA DOWN.
!
WELL, WITH THIS WE'RE EVEN.
WELL DONE, HAYATO.


LET'S EXCHANGE THE FRATERNAL SAKE AND BECOME THE STRONGEST
ERS...
I DECLINE.
I WAS AWED BY YOUR HONORABLE LEADERSHIP, THAT'S WHY!

TL note: The word *otokogi* means "chivalrous qualities." Hayato is saying Danno is the kind of man he aspires to become as a yakuza. This is part of the senpai-kohai dynamics that began with his decision to call Danno *aniki*.

YOU DON'T GET IT.
I SUGGEST YOU TAKE ME INSTEAD! I'M BETTER THAN THAT DULL FELLOW...
What's with that hair?
AH! MAYBE YOU ARE STILL PAIRED WITH THAT CURLY-HAIR...

TL note: For yakuza, calling someone *aniki* (Big Bro) is serious business. Hayato is essentially saying Danno is the man he looks up to as his senior.


HE IS THE IDEAL PARTNER.
BECAUSE THAT FELLOW IS DULL,

IKUO...
Come on
Eeeh
You're mean!

STOMP!

THAT INJURY ON THE BELLY... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT...?
BY NOW, SURELY THAT HIBINO LADY WILL HAVE TAKEN YOU TO A HOSPITAL, RIGHT...

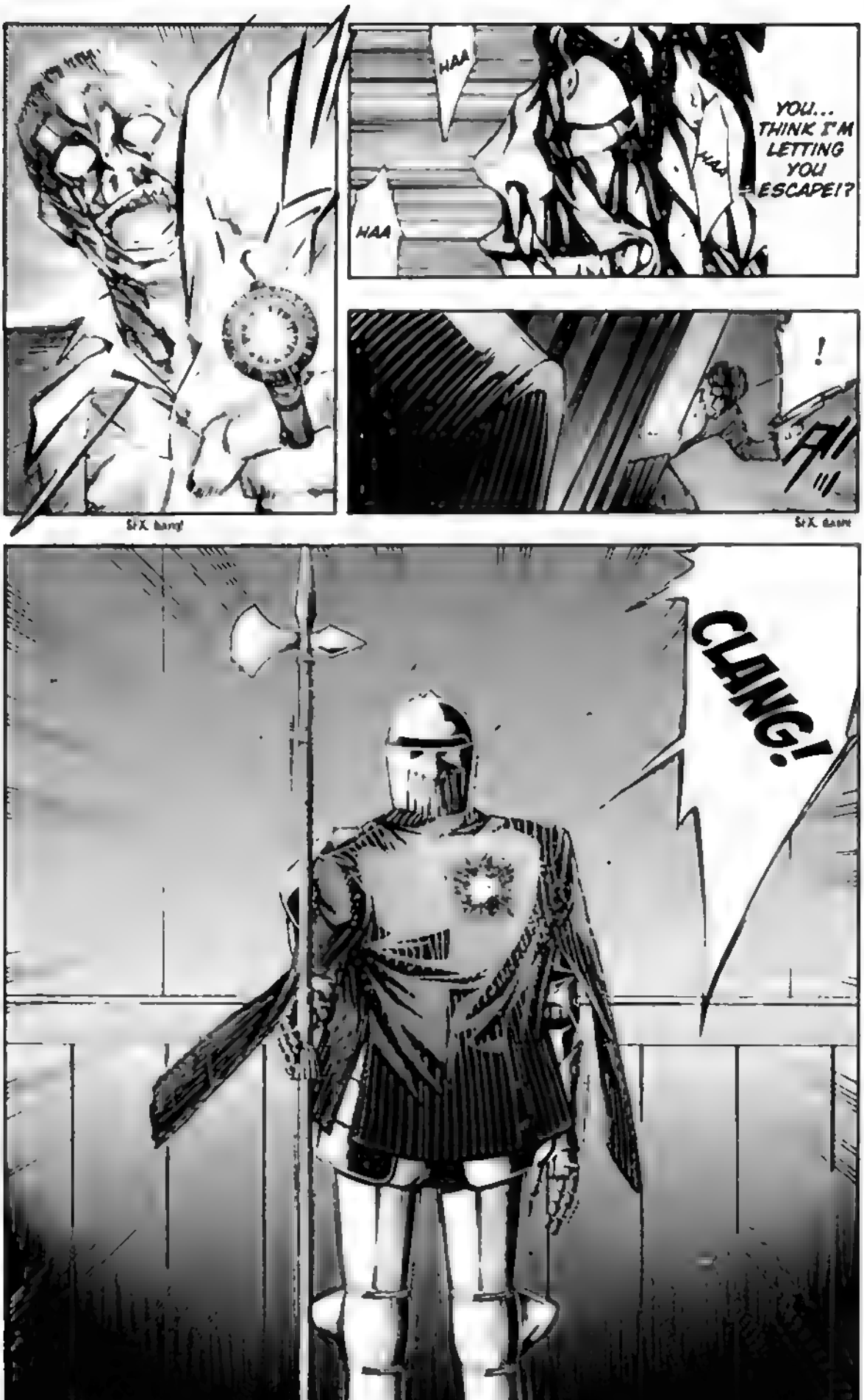
SHITTY... BRATS... BOTH... AT ONCE...!!
THESE...

HAYATO, RUN!!
SFX bang!

SFX: dash!

SFX: bang! Bang! Crack! Dash!

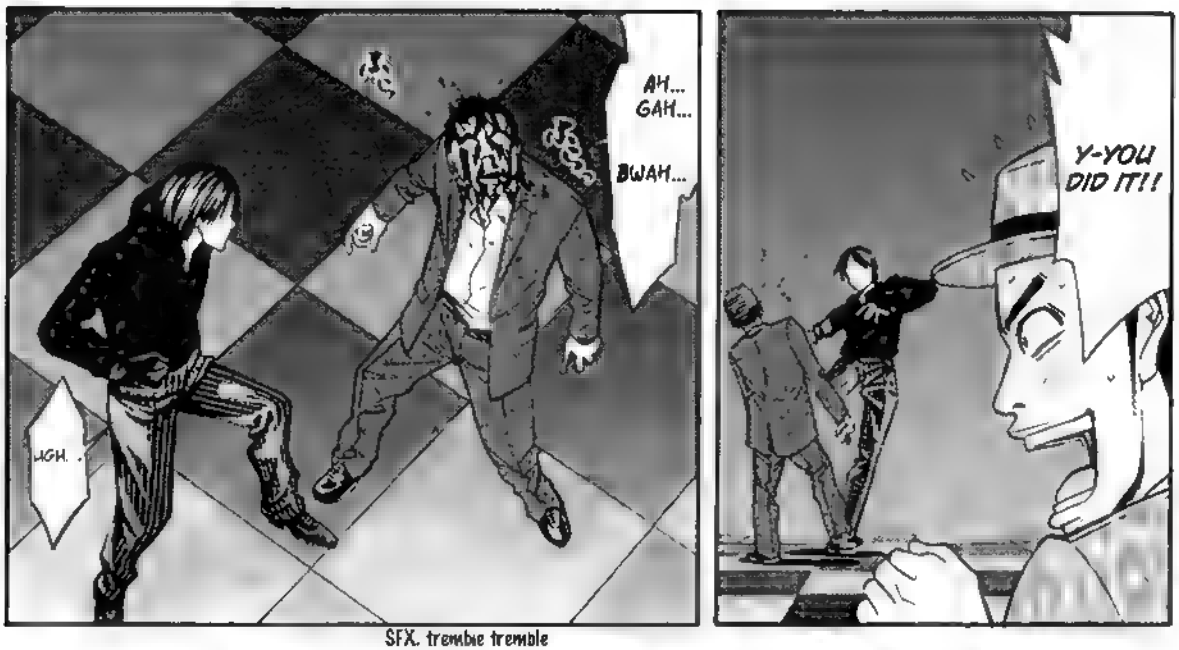
SFX: oooh!


HAA
HAA
HAA
YOU... THINK I'M LETTING YOU ESCAPE!?
!
CLANG!

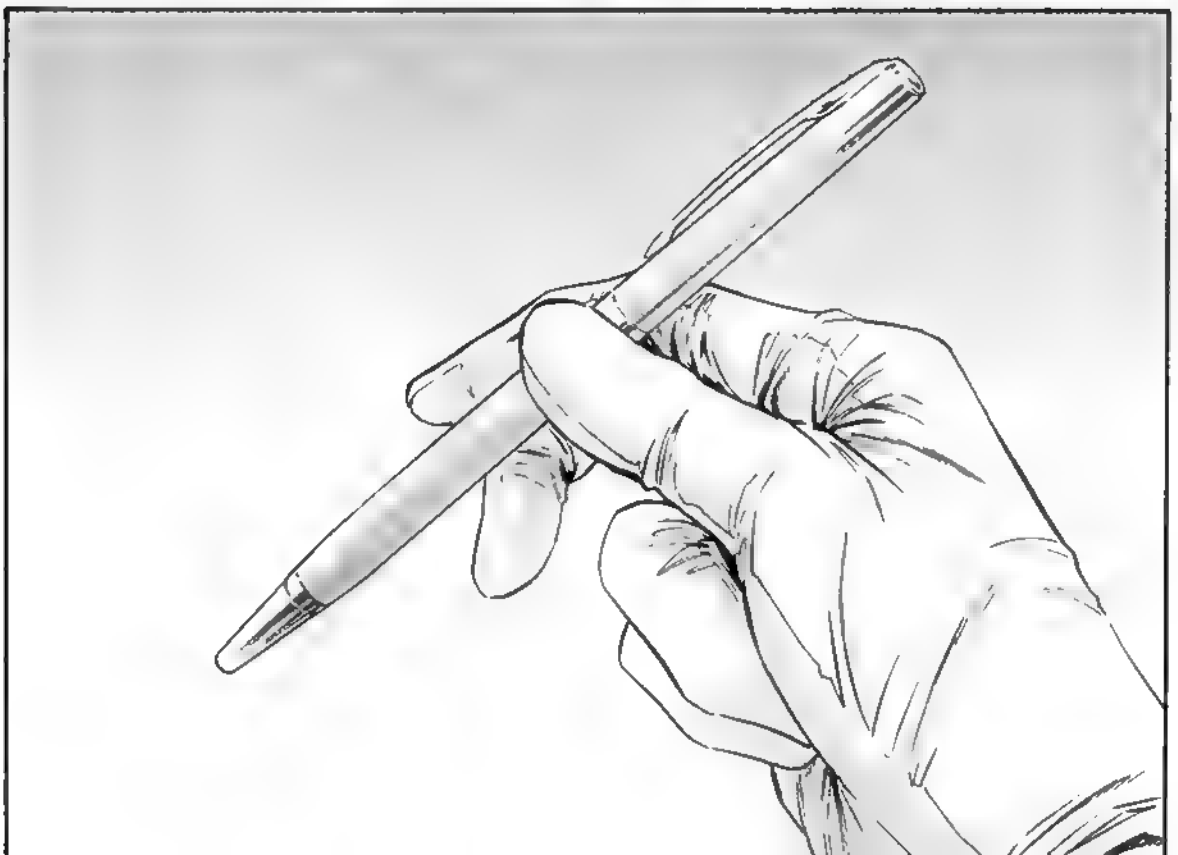
SFX. whoosh!

SFX. dash!

SFX. wham!

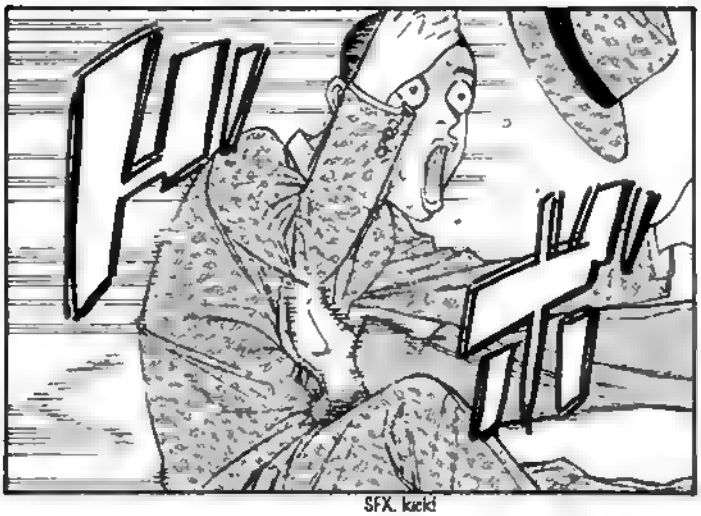


SFX. tremble tremble



STING!

B-BAS-TARD...
SFX: throb!
!?
SFX. wham!
THIS IS A BALLPOINT PEN-SHAPED HYPODERMIC SYRINGE USED EXCLU-SIVELY BY COVERT OP-ERATIVES.



SFX. kick!

SFX. thud!

SFX. twitch twitch

YOU CAN RELAX, I'M NOT KILLING YOU YET.
I SAY THAT, BUT I HAVE USED INSTEAD A DILUTED VERSION, AND NOT THE ENHANCED TOXICITY, INSTANT LETHALITY ONE WE NORMALLY USE.

I STILL HAVE THINGS I WANT TO ASK FROM YOU.

B-BUT THOSE LADS...
WELL, CALM DOWN A LITTLE, GANAHA.

BUT I THOUGHT I WAS SUPPOSED TO KILL THOSE LADS!?
TH-THANK YOU, SQUAD LEADER OSHITARI!!

WHA-WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, SQUAD LEADER OSHITA-
!
Ouch!?

SFX: sting!

RI-

WAI
JERK!
JERK!
JOLT!
WAH
AH
JERK!

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU TRAINED, AND YET YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE PUBLIC SECURITY IDEALS. ALL YOU DO IS RAMPAGE WITHOUT A CARE IN THE WORLD...
GANAHA... YOU ARE A RELIC FROM THE PAST.
WHO DO YOU THINK IS GOING TO CLEAN UP THE CORPSES AND THE BLOODSTAINS?

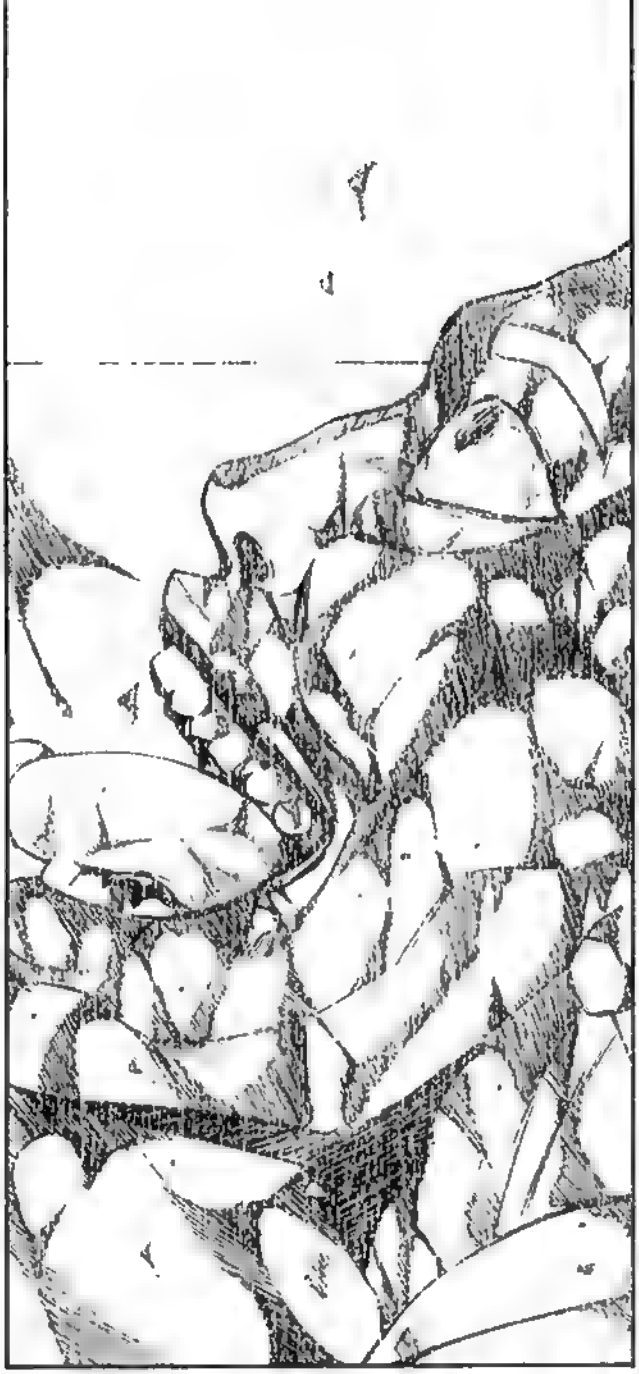
SFX. roll up

YOU HAVE DIRTIED THE FLOOR TOO MUCH WITH YOUR BLOOD, IDIOT.
GAH!
GUEH...

AT ZERO, INCOMPETENT PEOPLE WHO CANNOT FOLLOW THE SQUAD LEADER'S ORDERS ARE UNNEEDED STAFF, NOTHING MORE.
I ORDERED YOU, I'M SURE YOU REMEMBER, "DON'T USE YOUR GUN UNDER ANY CIRCUM-STANCES". WHY COULDN'T YOU LISTEN TO MY ORDER?

YOOOUUU
YHH!

SCOUTING YOU OUT WAS A GREAT ERROR, SUPER-INTENDENT GANAHA.

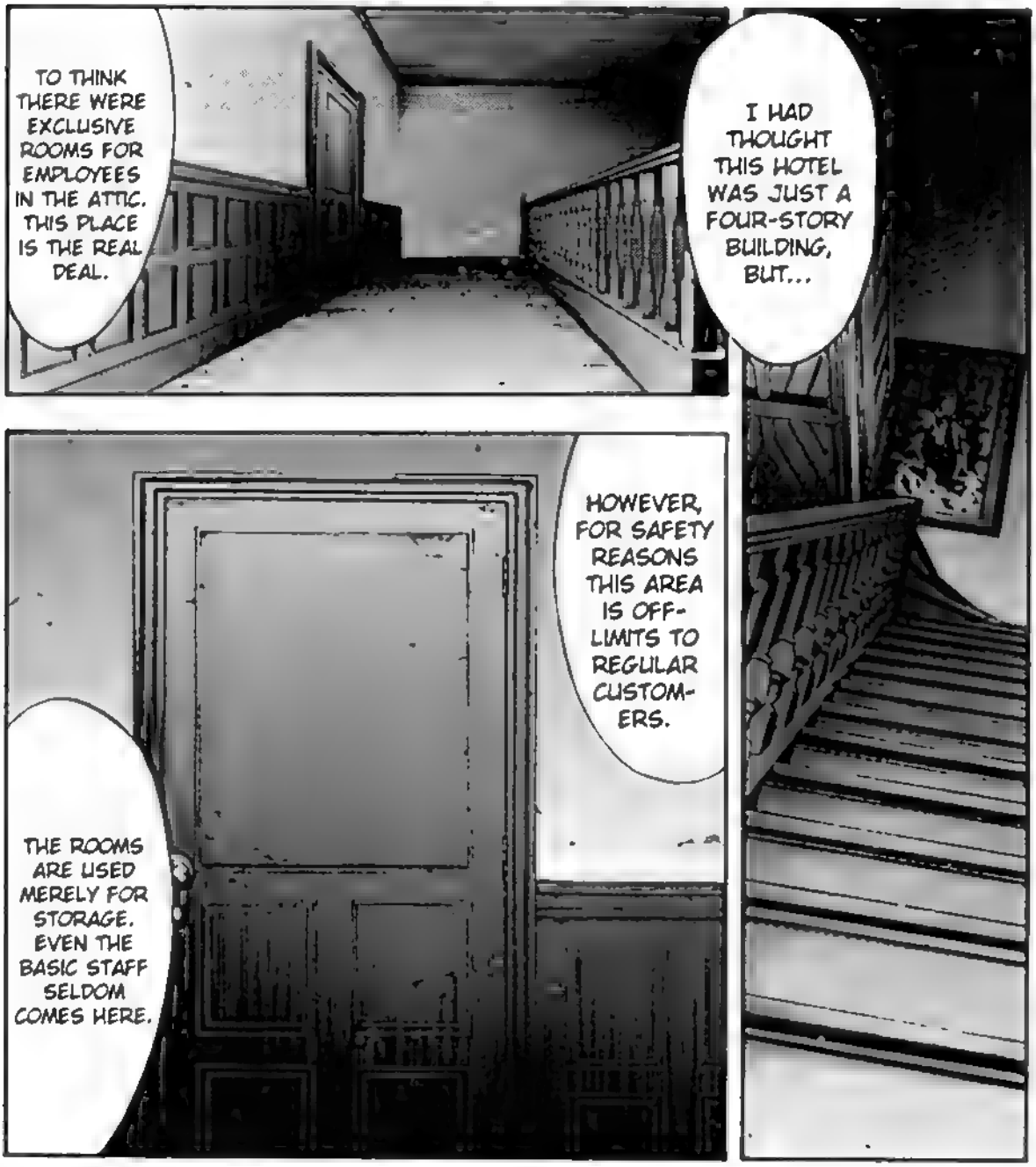


!! ... H-HIS OWN SUB-ORDINATE, HE HAS...

TS/N: Don't go blaming me if you read "gay" a couple times in that scream

A!!
A!!
A!!
A!!
UWAAAH!!

S/X running


TO THINK THERE WERE EXCLUSIVE ROOMS FOR EMPLOYEES IN THE ATTIC. THIS PLACE IS THE REAL DEAL.
I HAD THOUGHT THIS HOTEL WAS JUST A FOUR-STORY BUILDING, BUT...
HOWEVER, FOR SAFETY REASONS THIS AREA IS OFF-LIMITS TO REGULAR CUSTOM-ERS.
THE ROOMS ARE USED MERELY FOR STORAGE. EVEN THE BASIC STAFF SELDOM COMES HERE.

YOU HAVE BEEN NUMB FOR QUITE A WHILE.
DANNO, RIGHT?

... UGH... KH!!...
CAN YOU FINALLY TALK, PERHAPS?
Hm?

WE WILL ENJOY THIS ATTRACTION LEISURELY.
WE STILL HAVE A FEW HOURS UNTIL THE PARK CLOSES.

OOH, YOU ARE SHARP.
... ARE YOU PLANNING TO FRAME ME FOR HAYATO'S MURDER...?

Y-YOU FOUR-EYED, FRINGE-HAIRED FUCKER!! LET US GO!!
YOU STAY THERE AND BEHAVE YOURSELF UNTIL I AM DONE WITH THIS FELLOW HERE.

BUT BEFORE THAT, YOU WILL OBLIGE ME BY ANSWERING A FEW QUESTIONS, BASTARD.
YOU WERE PROBABLY ASKED THE SAME THING FROM GANAHA, BUT...

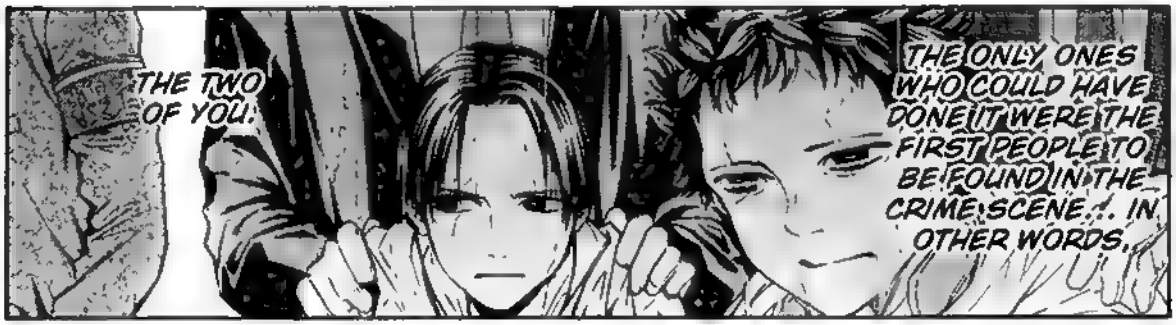
THE OUROBOROS NECKLACE?
WHERE DID YOU HIDE IT?

SFX: ka dong!
THAT THING YUIKO-SENSEI WORE...!?

THE NECK-LACE ...!?

HOWEVER, NO NECKLACE WAS FOUND AMONG THE ARTICLES OF THE DECEASED. ... ON REFLECTION, THERE WAS JUST ONE POSSIBILITY.
BEFORE THE POLICE COLLECTED THE CORPSE, SOMEONE HAD STOLEN IT...
IN THE EXECUTION OF OUR PLAN THAT DAY, 17 YEARS AGO, OUR TOP PRIORITY IN KILLING KASHIWABA YUIKO,
WAS TO USE IT AS A RUSE TO RETRIEVE THE NECKLACE FROM AMONG HER PERSONAL EFFECTS.

TL note: He says "articles of the deceased" originally, meaning they intended for the necklace to enter custody of the police and eventually fall into their hands.



THE NECKLACE...?
I WONDER... IT'S NOT AS IF CAN RECALL SOMETHING FROM SO LONG AGO...
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT THING...!?
IKUO CARRIES THAT NECKLACE AS A MEMENTO OF YUIKO-SENSEI...

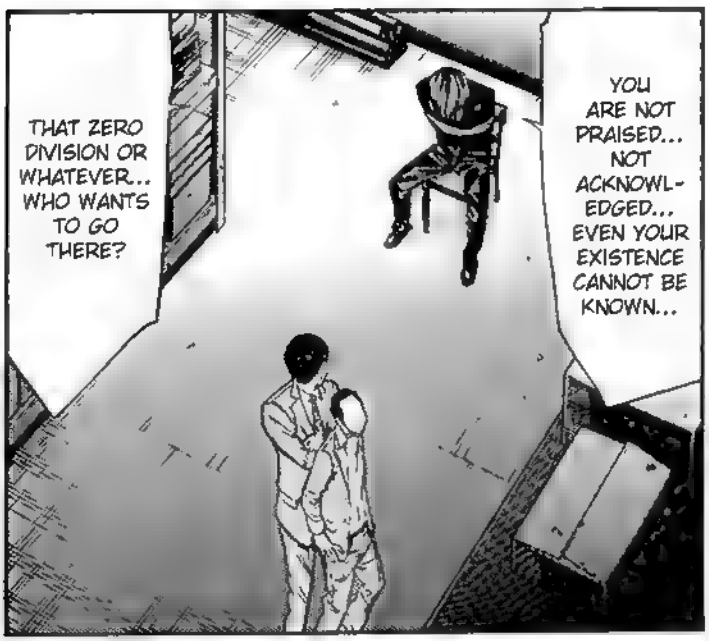
Sting!
I AM NOT AS SOFT AS GANAHA...!
SECOND TIME...

SFX: ba-dump!
I'LL HAVE YOU SAY EVERYTHING BEFORE YOU CAN'T TALK DUE TO IMPAIRED SPEECH.
DYSPNEA, TONGUE PARALYSIS.
WHY, THESE ARE THE FIRST SYMPTOMS OF TETRODOTOXIN POISONING.
O-OSHITARI!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO BIG BRO DANNO!?
THE GREATEST THING ABOUT TETRODOTOXIN IS THAT THE VICTIM RETAINS A CLEAR MIND UNTIL RIGHT BEFORE DEATH.
THANKS TO THE POISON, CONSCIOUSNESS IS NOT IMPAIRED FOR EVEN ONE SECOND, NO MATTER HOW COMPLETE THE PARALYSIS IS OR HOW MUCH AGONY THE BODY EXPERIENCES.
!!
gah... ack...
MY BREATHING...!!

TORTURE IS ZERO'S SPECIALTY.
WE DON'T LET LIVE, AND WE DON'T KILL.
WE LET YOU WATCH AS YOUR BODY, SLOWLY BUT SURELY, MEETS ITS END.
SFX: slip!
S-STOP, HAYATO...
YOU...
SFX: dash!
DID YOU ALSO KILL MY FATHER THAT WAY!?
YOU FUCK-ING MANI-AC!!
AH

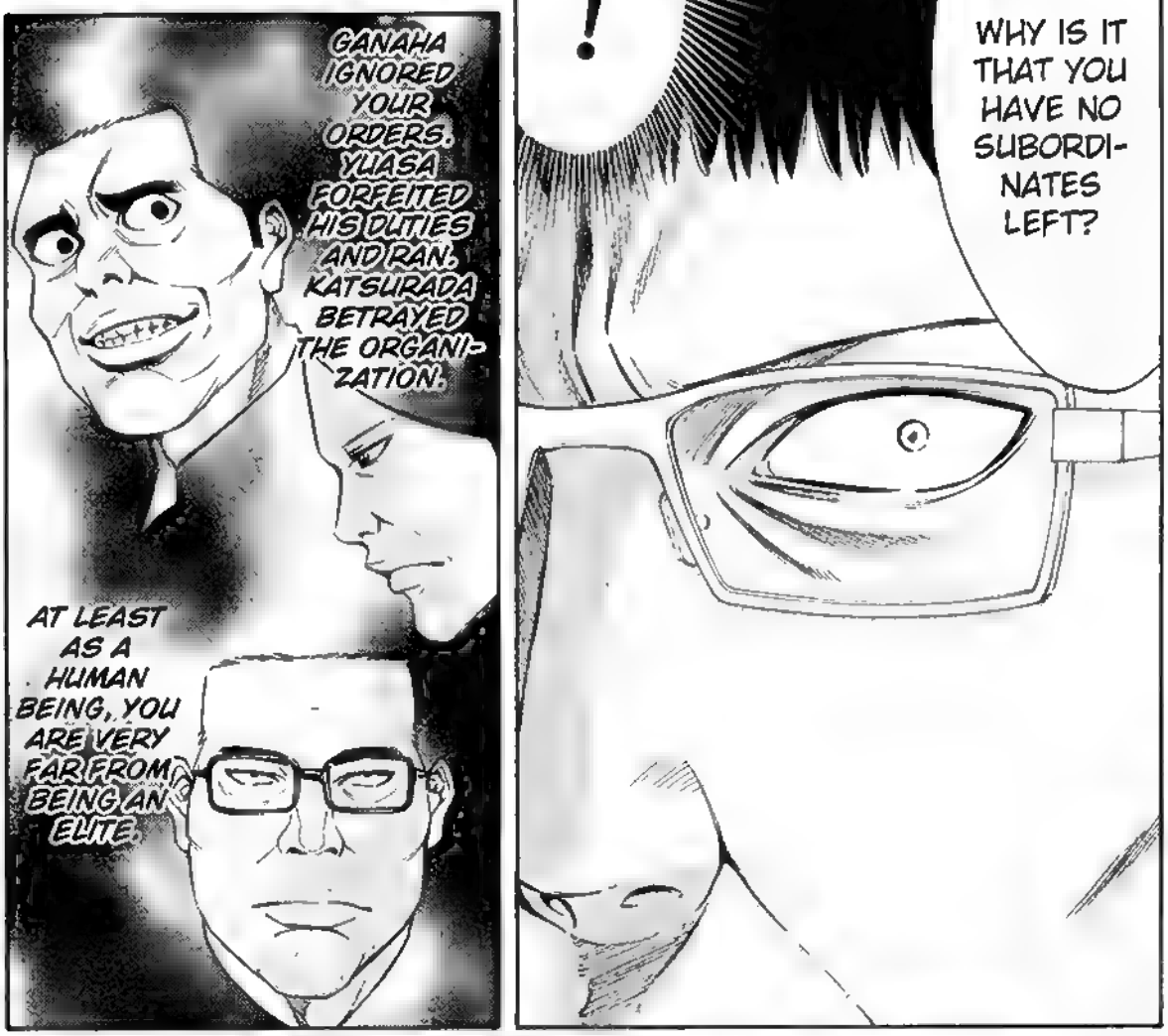
!?
SFX. stretch!
SFX. zoom!
HAYA...
HA..
!!
SFX. stretch stretch
!!
!!
...
Tsk. Nice ahegao there
?
...
PFFF...
WATCH HOW YOU TALK TO ME, YOU. I AM AN ELITE, ASSIGNED TO ZERO, AT THE VERY TOP OF THE 290 THOUSAND OFFICERS OF THE POLICE SYSTEM.
FUCKING MANIAC!? NOW THAT'S UNPLEASANT.

YOU ARE A HALF-WIT ...
... OSHI-TARI,


THAT ZERO DIVISION OR WHATEVER... WHO WANTS TO GO THERE?
YOU ARE NOT PRAISED... NOT ACKNOWL-EDGED... EVEN YOUR EXISTENCE CANNOT BE KNOWN...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
.....

EXACTLY BECAUSE I HAVE WHAT IT TAKES, THAT PERSON...
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND... THAT'S PRECISELY WHY ONLY THE TRULY EXCELLENT ARE SUITABLE FOR IT.
WELL, THEN...

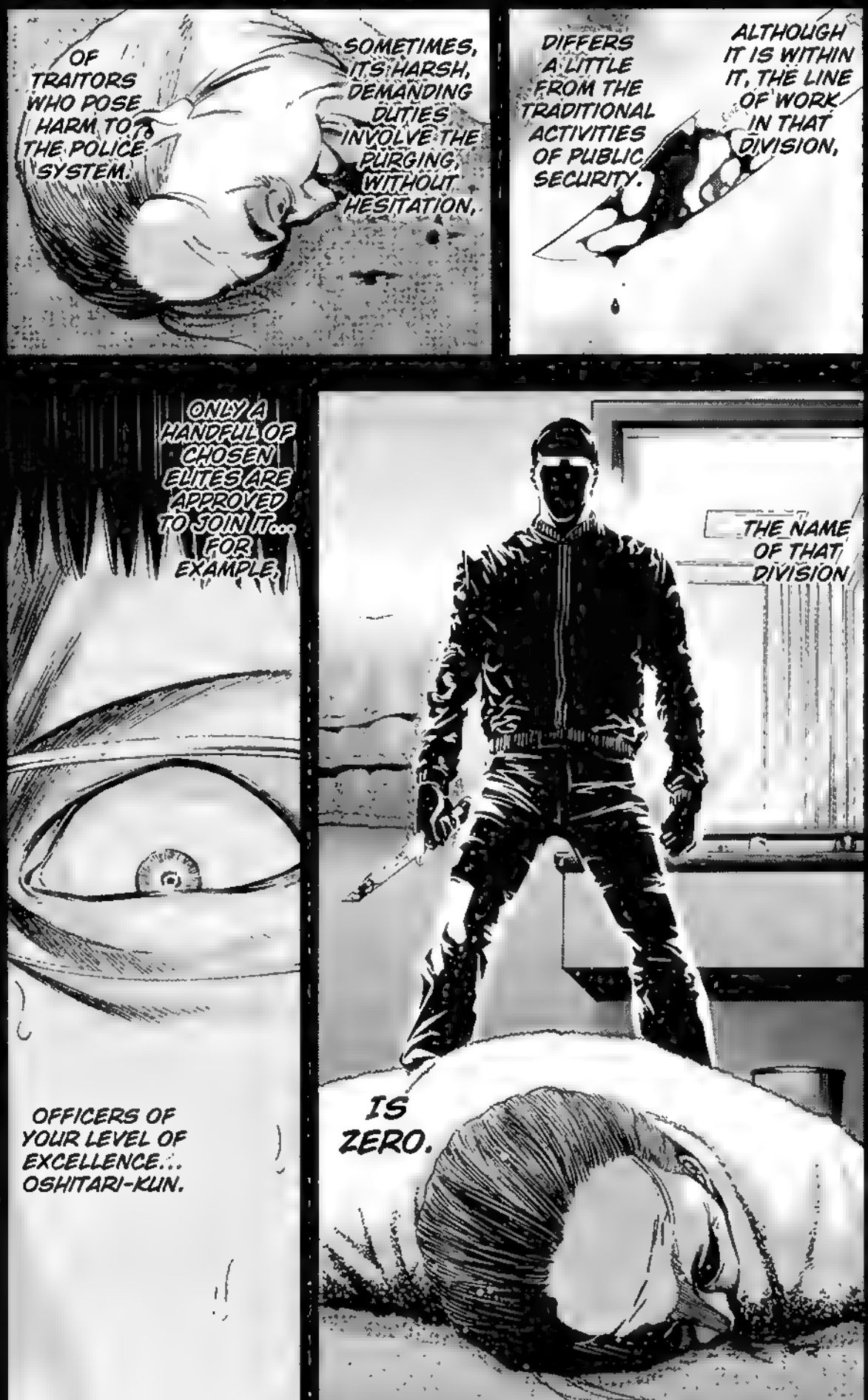

!
WHY IS IT THAT YOU HAVE NO SUBORDI-NATES LEFT?
GANAHA IGNORED YOUR ORDERS. YUASA FORFEITED HIS DUTIES AND RAN. KATSURADA BETRAYED THE ORGANI-ZATION.
AT LEAST AS A HUMAN BEING, YOU ARE VERY FAR FROM BEING AN ELITE.

AND JUST LIKE THAT, YOU ARE MADE TO LURK FOR-EVER IN DARK-NESS...
... ELITE? YOU ARE NO SUCH THING.

YOU ARE GIVEN BOTHERSOME, DIRTY JOBS FROM THE TOP.
AND NOT ONE PERSON FROM BELOW LISTENS TO YOUR ORDERS...

AS FAR AS THE ORGANIZATION IS CONCERNED, YOU ARE JUST CONVENIENT, NOTHING MORE...
THAN A POLICE OFFICER LIKE ANY OTHER.
... OSHITARI-KUN,
YOU MIGHT TREAT WHAT I WANT TO ASK YOU ABOUT AS HEARSAY, BUT...

ITS EXISTENCE MUST BE KEPT UNKNOWN TO THE PUBLIC.
THE SECURITY PLANNING DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY SECURITY BUREAU... THAT PLACE DOES EXIST.
IF THE EXISTENCE OF THE DIVISION MUST BE KEPT FROM THE PUBLIC... THAT MEANS,
THOSE WHO ARE IN THE FIRST LINE OF PUBLIC SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS ARE PLACED IN THAT DIVISION.
EVEN THOUGH THE ELITES OF THE POLICE ARE TO BE FOUND IN PUBLIC SECURITY,
THAT ITS INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITIES, LIKEWISE, ARE OF A VERY SPECIAL NATURE THAT CANNOT BE, AT PRESENT, DISCLOSED PUBLICLY, EITHER.
ACCORDING TO RUMORS, THAT DIVISION
SEEMS TO BE INTERESTED IN RECRUITING NEW INVESTIGATORS FROM AMID PUBLIC SECURITY... IT'S JUST A RUMOR, BUT...


OF TRAITORS WHO POSE HARM TO THE POLICE SYSTEM.
SOMETIMES, IT'S HARSH, DEMANDING DUTIES INVOLVE THE PURGING, WITHOUT HESITATION.
DIFFERS A LITTLE FROM THE TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES OF PUBLIC SECURITY.
ALTHOUGH IT IS WITHIN IT, THE LINE OF WORK IN THAT DIVISION,
ONLY A HANDFUL OF CHOSEN ELITES ARE APPROVED TO JOIN IT... FOR EXAMPLE,
THE NAME OF THAT DIVISION
IS ZERO.
OFFICERS OF YOUR LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE... OSHITARI-KUN.

AS FAR AS THE POLICE IS CONCERNED,
I AM AN INDISPENSABLE EXISTENCE!
ONLY I HAVE THE UNYIELDING EMOTIONAL STRENGTH... THE HIGH SKILL AND UNSHAKEABLE DETERMINATION NEEDED OF A PUBLIC SECURITY INVESTIGATOR.
I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN CARRY OUT ZERO MISSIONS.
NOWADAYS, AS FAR AS THE POLICE IS CONCERNED,
ARE YOU A NEEDED EXISTENCE, I WONDER...?

SFX: loosen
GAH...
ACH... HAH...
GUH... GURUH... IIIRH...

COUGH!!
GASP!
!?
!?
HUU-UH!?
!
IIIRH!?

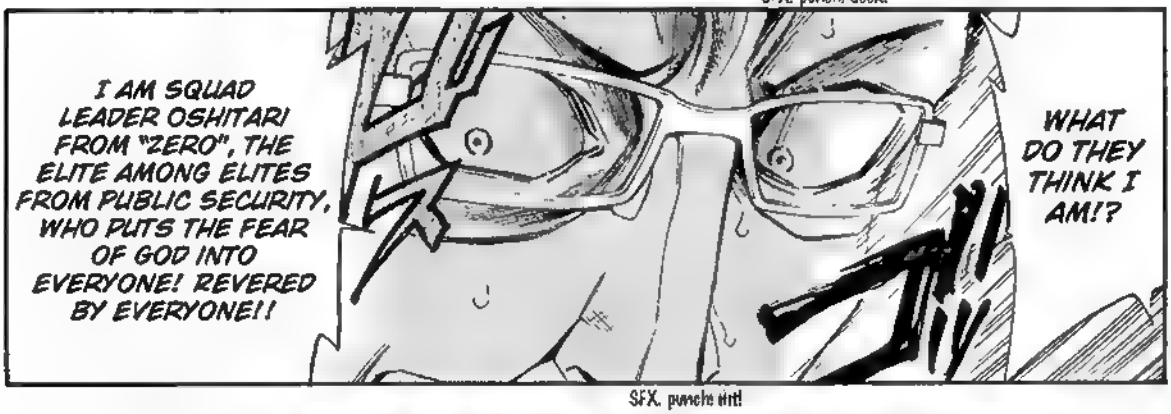
TWITCH!
TWITCH!
TWITCH!
TWITCH!

!!
HI-
HIHI-
HIH!
TWITCH!
TWITCH!
TWITCH!
HIHIHI
HIHIII
IIH!!
SFX: ominous

SFX: punch!
SFX: wham!
WAI... STOP!
!? HUH!? HEY, YOU!?
SEVENTEEN YEARS!! I HAVE DIRTIED MY HANDS FOR THE SAKE OF THE ORGANI-ZATION FOR 17 YEARS!!
ARE YOU SAYING THAT I AM AN UNNEEDED EXIS-TENCE!? AAAAH!?
ALL OF A SUDDEN, HE HAS SNAPPED ...!!
WHAT THE...!? OSHITARI, THIS FELLOW...
SCARY...

SFX. sock! Punch! Jab! Whaml

SFX. punch! Sock!


I AM SQUAD LEADER OSHITARI FROM "ZERO", THE ELITE AMONG ELITES FROM PUBLIC SECURITY, WHO PUTS THE FEAR OF GOD INTO EVERYONE! REVERED BY EVERYONE!!
WHAT DO THEY THINK I AM!?

SFX. punch! ittt!

HAH!
!?
I FELT LIKE SOMEONE WAS WATCHING ME...
.. WHAT THE? THAT SENSATION, RIGHT NOW ..

IT WAS JUST MY IMAGINA-TION...
NO... OF COURSE, THE ONLY ONE IN THIS ROOM ARE MYSELF, DANNO AND HAYATO.
WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT COMPOSURE YOU WERE SHOWING UNTIL NOW?
? ARE YOU GOING TO PLEAD FOR YOUR LIFE?
Mumble mumble mumble ...
... IDIOT...
WHY THE HELL... DID YOU COME...!?

COME? WHAT IS THAT?
WAIT RIGHT THERE, DANNO.
NOW... WHAT DID YOU SAY?
?
WHAT IS WHAT?
.....
IF YOU DON'T, I AM GIVING YOU ANOTHER DOSE...
AN-SWER!
SFX. grab!
DON'T PLAY DUMB! I DEFINITELY HEARD YOU SAY IT RIGHT NOW!
COME!? WHO THE HELL HAS COME!?

!!

.....

THAT FELLOW... WAS WITH DANNO EARLIER...

JUST AN OLD PLAY-MATE OF MINE.

WHEN HE SNAPS, HE GETS A LITTLE DANGER-OUS... YOU KNOW.

... HM?
SOMETHING ABOUT HIM IS DIFFERENT FROM EARLIER
...

SFX. wind blowing

ouroboros

ouroboros

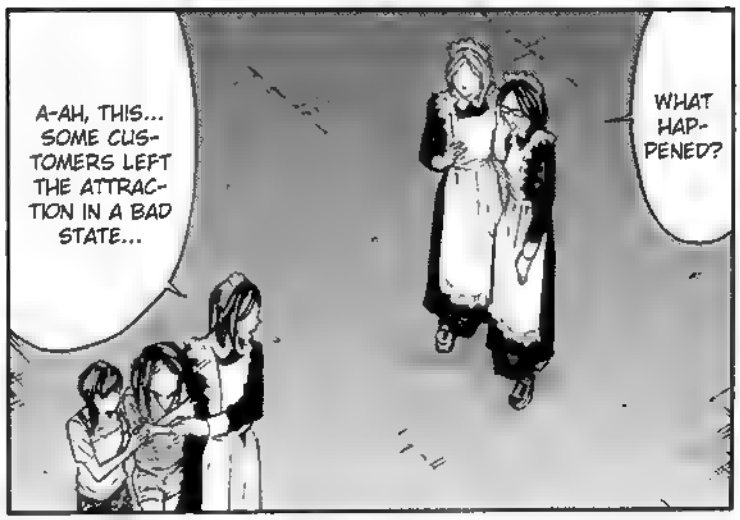
ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

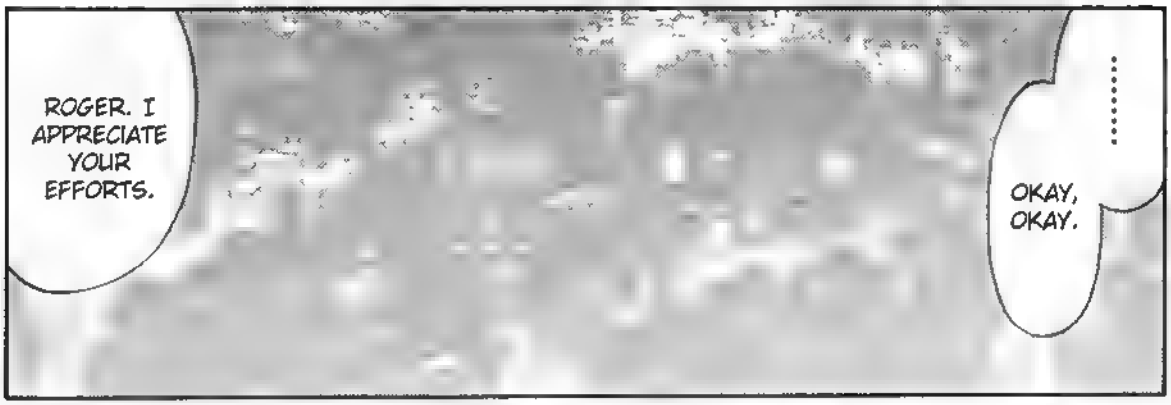
HADA-KUN WAS KNOCKED OUT!?
EH?
WHAT HAPPENED, TAKAHASHI-KUN?
IN ANY CASE, CAN YOU SEND OVER SOMEONE FROM TEAM B WHILE I TAKE HIM TO THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE? THE LOCATION IS...
THE REASON... ER... I DON'T KNOW, BUT...
Y-YES.
IT SEEMS HE GOT A CONCUSSION FROM HAVING HIS HEAD SMASHED AGAINST A WALL...
AH...
AGAH...

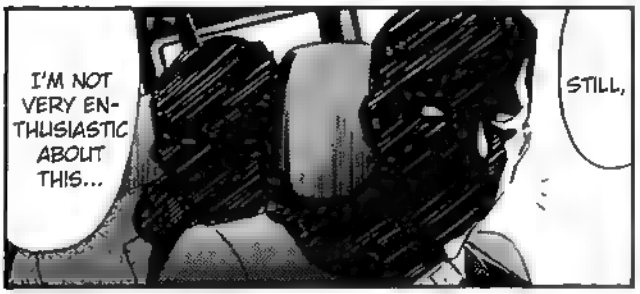


TS, N: <insert Smooth Criminal reference here>
Wantam not sure this is a man in drag?

SFX. tremble tremble tremble

CHIEF, THIS IS BAD!!
?
THAT WASN'T IT!! THERE WAS ALSO A PERSON WHO SAVED US...
Besides...
STRANGE PEOPLE...?
AAH, THOSE ARE JUST EMPLOYEES OF THE ATTRACTION IN DISGUISE, THERE IS NO NEED TO WORRY...
?
CHIEF... THERE, LOOK!!
THERE!
WHAT THE HECK IS IT NOW? THERE ARE CUSTOMERS TO WORRY ABOUT...
!!





TS/N: Okay. Who...ny ted fuck n...rudo ph? This here am t a christmass specia.!

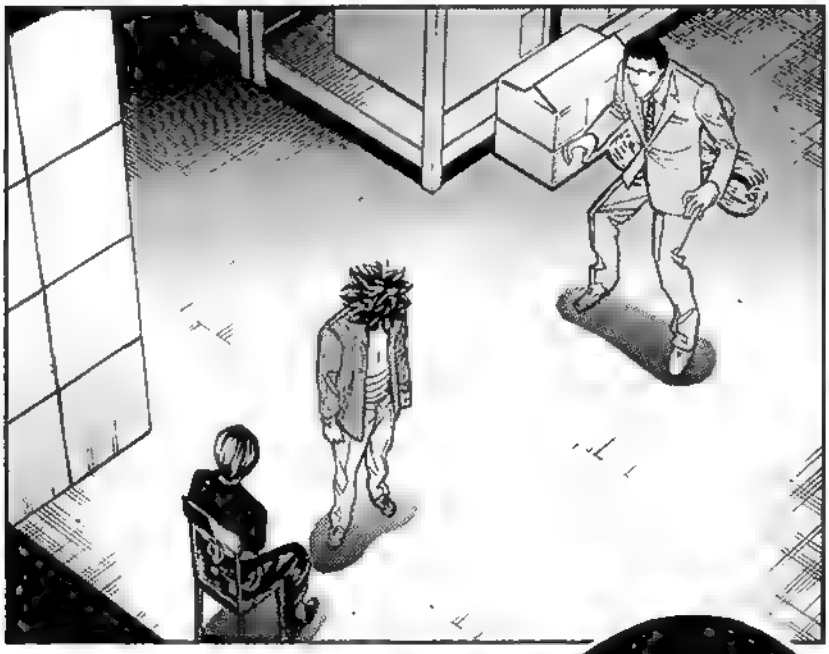
弔

第12話

CHAPTER 81: AVENGING

TL/N: Well that's what I'd call a fight to avenge someone, which is literal meaning of "Mourning". But it's also because the chapter was around the courtyard that's why the title is like that.

SFX. step!



THIS FELLOW...
THIS...

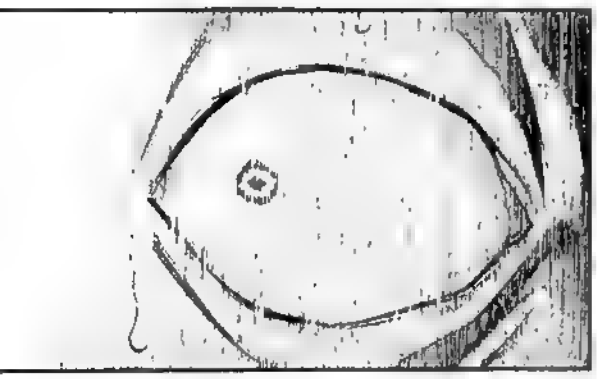
WHAT ON EARTH...
THE MAN CALLED RYUZAKI...
THIS FELLOW IS THAT POLICE OFFICER IN CAHOOTS WITH DANNO...
AS IF "KILLING INTENT" HAD ACQUIRED AN EXISTENCE BY ITSELF.
THIS ALL-PERVADING ATMOSPHERE...
HAVING WORKED EXCLUSIVELY FOR ZERO ON UNDERWORLD JOBS, I CAN UNDERSTAND BETTER THAN ANYONE...
GOOD HEAVENS...
SFX. gulp
SFX. rustle!
IT WASN'T DANNO.
THE PRESENCE I FELT FROM THOSE TWO FELLOWS... I THOUGHT IT WAS COMING FROM DANNO AND DIDN'T DOUBT THAT HE WAS THE ONE.
ARE YOU OKAY, BIG BRO DANNO!?
IT'S AIMED AT ME...

THE DANGEROUS, TOP-PRIORITY TARGET THAT ZERO WAS ASSIGNED TO ELIMINATE
WAS THIS MAN...!!

HE'S... WOUNDED!? ... THAT'S RIGHT,
HE'S THE ONE WHO SHIELDED HAYATO AGAINST OUR ATTACK FROM THE FERRIS WHEEL...!!
SFX. trickle!
... KH...
SFX. wobble!
!
SFX. slide..
IF IT'S NOW,
I CAN WIN!!
IF I WERE TO FIGHT HIM HEAD-ON, I WOULD HAVE NO CHANCE AT ALL... HOWEVER,
UGH...
NOW'S MY CHANCE...
SFX. quick steps

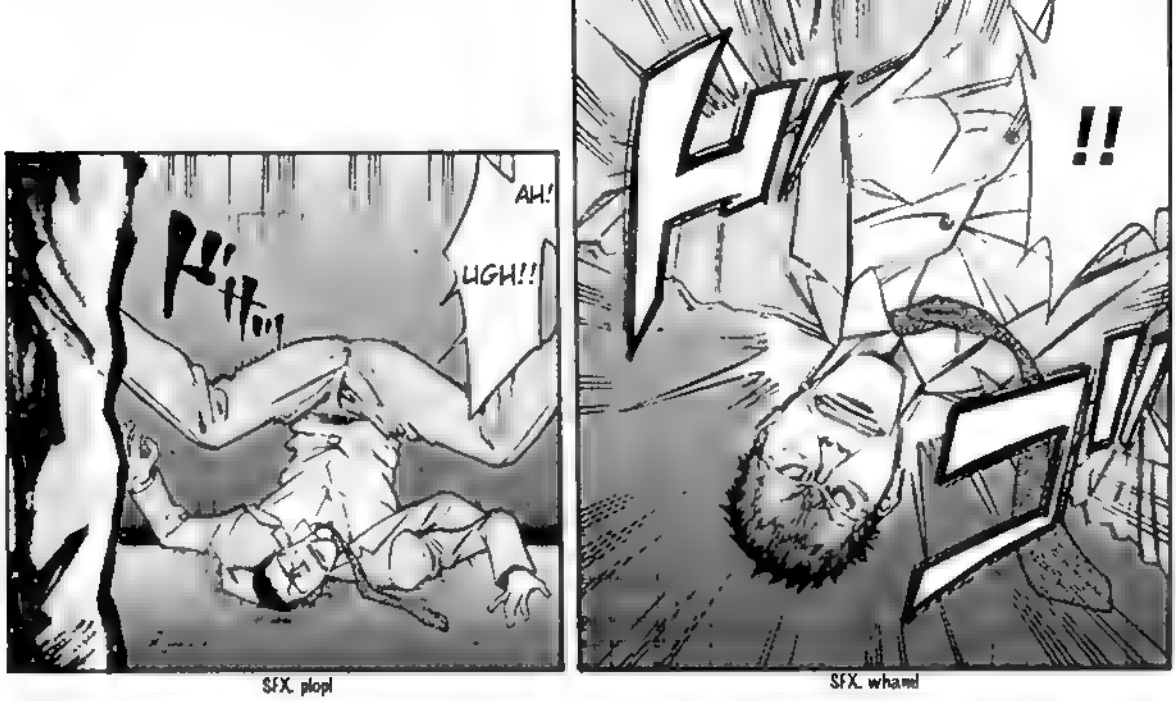
DIIIE!!
SFX whoosh
SFX ctaaang!
!!
TSK!
THIS RESILIENT FUCKER! TO THINK HE STILL HAS THIS MUCH STRENGTH LEFT BUT STILL!

SFX. dangle dangle



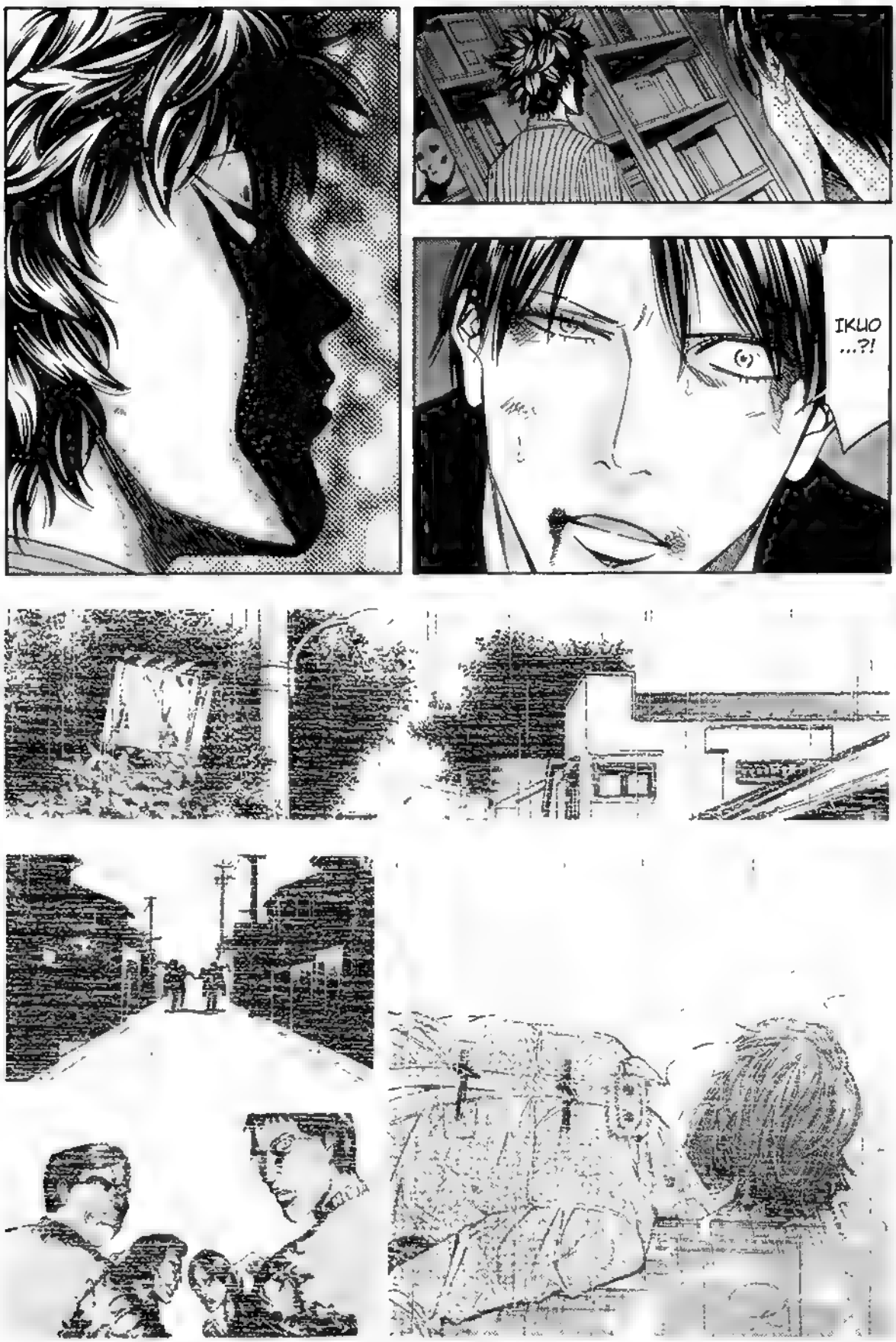
SFX. shift...

AH
OOH
OH
OH
SFX: tmrd
AAAAAAAH!


AH!
UGH!!
!!
SFX. plop!
SFX. whamt

HOW CAN A WOUNDED MIDGET HAVE SUCH ABSURD POWER...
IMPOS-SIBLE...
WHA... WHAT THE... W-WITH JUST ONE ARM, HE TOSSED A MAN WITH A MUCH BIGGER CON-STITUTION THAN HE, AS IF...

I'M GOING TO BE KILLED...!!
THIS IS BAD!! I'M...
THIS IS BAD...
THIS IS BAD!


IKUO
...?!

SFX. bzzaz!

SFX. stomp!

SFX. gulp!

ARE YOU ALRIGHT!? YOU AREN'T HURT, ARE YOU...
IKUO!!
IKUO...

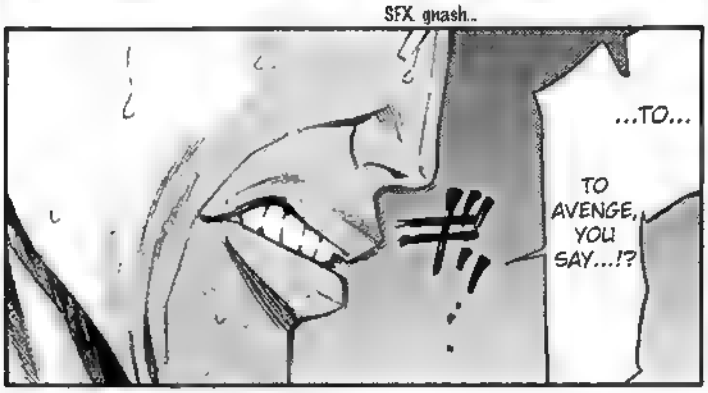
IKUO...!!

TAT...
CHAN...
.....
!!
!!
!!
KICK!
YOU...
IKUO...

...THEY GET ALONG WELL, DON'T THEY...
YOU'RE GONNA DIE LIKE THAT.
!!
UGH, THIS STOMACH WOUND HURTS ALL OF A SUDDEN
B-BUT, IT WAS IM-POSSIBLE!
HOW COULD I ESCAPE AND LEAVE YOU TWO BEHIND, TAT-CHAN...
YOU BASTARD... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO GOING TO THE HOSPITAL?! HUHH?!
SFX. plop!
BECAUSE OF THE DRUG, I AM STILL FEELING A LITTLE NUMB, BUT NO MATTER.
SINCE YOU HAVE ALREADY PUNCHED ME AS YOU PLEASED,
WE, TOO, HAVE THINGS WE WANT TO ASK YOU.
OSHI-TARI.
WE ARE NOT GOING TO KILL YOU YET.

YOU, TOO, AS THE LEADER OF THOSE BASTARDS, TRY AND FIGHT ME TO AVENGE ZERO.
I'LL BE YOUR OPPONENT.

SFX. gnash..


...TO...
TO AVENGE, YOU SAY...!?

AS FAR AS THE BIG TREE OF THE POLICE IS CONCERNED,
LET ME ASCERTAIN IT.
WHETHER YOU FROM ZERO ARE AN "UNSIGHTLY BRANCH" OR NOT.
!
SFX: dash!
UOOOO OOH!!

HUH?

.....

!!.....

WHY.

OH... OH...

IF YOU'RE SCHEMING TO PUT US OFF OUR GUARD BEFORE STRIKING, SUCH A SILLY RUSE WON'T...

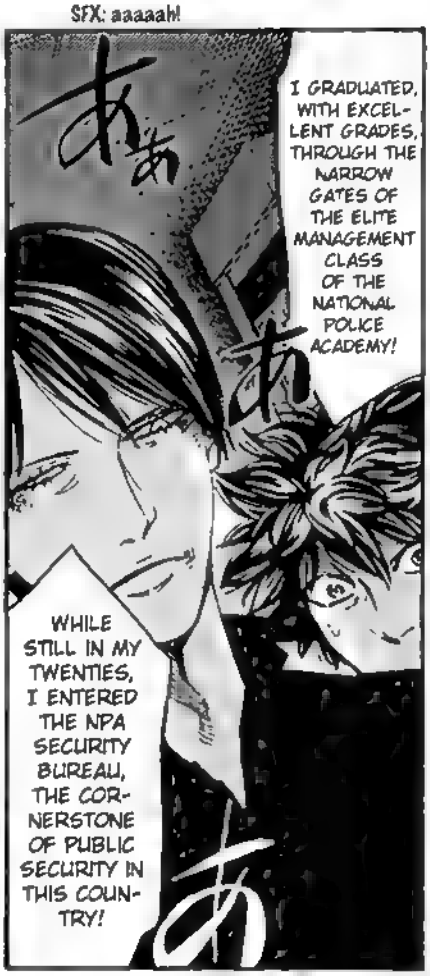
GROVELLING? WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

SFX: aaaaah!

FROM THE MOMENT I WAS ENLISTED INTO ZERO THROUGH HIS RECOMMENDATION, NOT ONE GOOD THING HAPPENED IN MY LIFE...!!
BE-CAUSE OF THAT MAN...

TS/N: All work and no fun made Oshitari a dull man

BECAUSE OF THEIR IN-COMPETENCE, HOW MANY TIMES WAS I REDUCED TO CLEANING UP AFTER THEM...
TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, I CAME TO WORK WITH A BUNCH OF DIM-WITTED SAVAGES... FUCK!


I GRADUATED, WITH EXCEL-LENT GRADES, THROUGH THE NARROW GATES OF THE ELITE MANAGEMENT CLASS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY!
WHILE STILL IN MY TWENTIES, I ENTERED THE NPA SECURITY BUREAU, THE COR-NERSTONE OF PUBLIC SECURITY IN THIS COUN-TRY!

EEK!
WELL, YOU WEREN'T VERY GOOD TO THOSE STUPID BRATS.
I, TALENTED AS I AM, HAVING TO UNDERGO SUCH HUMILIATION BECAUSE OF THOSE STUPID BRATS...

SFX: step

SFX: dangle, dangle

BESIDES... A-ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO KILL ME AFTER I GROVELLED BEFORE YOU!? HUH?! HEY!?
LOOK HOW IT IS!
WITH MY DOMINANT ARM IN THIS CONDITION, I CAN NO LONGER OFFER ANY RESISTANCE!

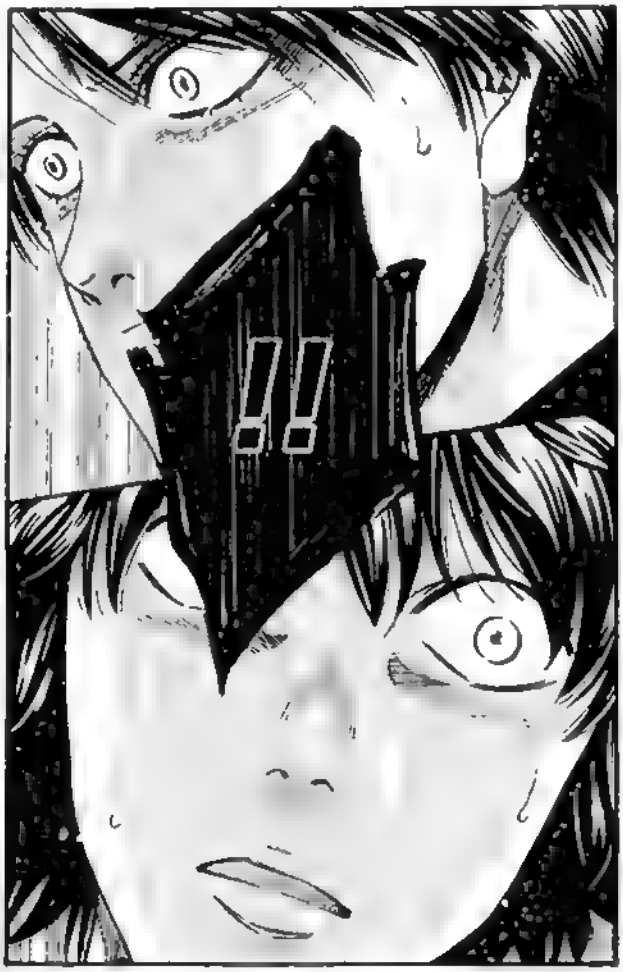
TS/N: He already said he wasn't going to kill you .. You scatter-brained, AVGN-looking-like motherfucker

YOU'RE PATHETIC AT BEST, OSHITARI.
SFX. step
DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY YOU HAVE BEEN MURDERING PEOPLE AS YOU PLEASED UNTIL NOW!?
Y-YOU FUCKER!
AND NOW YOU'RE PLEADING FOR YOUR OWN LIFE.
YOU KILLED YOUR THREE SUBORDI-NATES TO KEEP THEM FROM TALKING.
SFX. grin...
I ALREADY KNOW... WHAT YOU WANT TO ASK.
I AM NOT YOUR REAL TARGET, AM I?
I-IS IT GOING TO BE OKAY? KILLING ME?!

IS THE REAL IDENTITY WITHIN THE POLICE OF "GOLD WATCH"...!!
SHALL I TELL YOU? WHAT YOU TWO WANT TO KNOW

SFX. grbl

SHOULDN'T WE LAY DOWN OUR BARGAINING CHIPS?
WHOA!
THIS MAN, HOW THE HECK DOES HE...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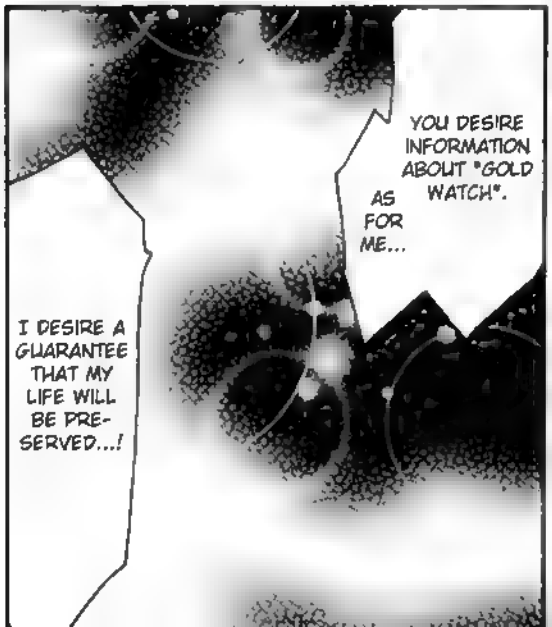
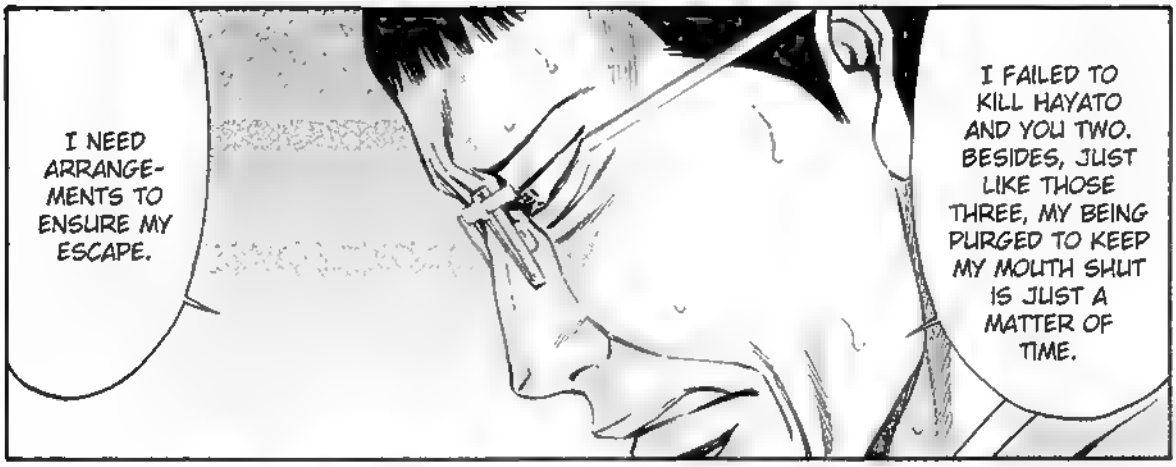

YOU DESIRE INFORMATION ABOUT "GOLD WATCH".
AS FOR ME...
I DESIRE A GUARANTEE THAT MY LIFE WILL BE PRE-SERVED...!


I NEED ARRANGE-MENTS TO ENSURE MY ESCAPE.
I FAILED TO KILL HAYATO AND YOU TWO. BESIDES, JUST LIKE THOSE THREE, MY BEING PURGED TO KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT IS JUST A MATTER OF TIME.

WE WON'T HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE TO LEARN "GOLD WATCH'S" IDEN-TITY... THAT BEING SAID...
...TAT-CHAN...

SFX: grrr...

SHIT...
.....

OVERSEAS WILL DO, ANY-WHERE WILL DO... A FAKE PASSPORT... YOU WILL SUPPLY ME WITH THE FUNDS AND MEANS TO ESCAPE.
IN EXCHANGE, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT "GOLD WATCH"...!

BUT I WON'T!
ALL I WANT IS TO KILL THIS OSHITARI BASTARD AND AVENGE MY OLD MAN... NOTHING MORE!
I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH GOLD WATCH OR WHAT-EVER HIS NAME IS...!
ガン
ア

SFX: clang!

RENOUNCING MY GOAL IS THE CHIVALROUS THING TO DO, RIGHT!?
WE EX-CHANGED THE FRATER-NAL SAKE! FOR THE SAKE OF MY BIG BRO,
I WON'T, BECAUSE YOU ARE ALREADY MY BIG BRO!

T.N. They didn't exchange the sake literally, so this must be metaphorical

IN EXCHANGE... YOU WILL TELL US EVERYTHING CONCERNING GOLD WATCH'S IDENTITY.
VERY WELL, OSHITARI.
I WILL ENSURE YOUR LIFE WILL BE PRESER-VED.
SFX. stand
O.J MAN I'M SORRY
SFX. sniff
THEY HAVE BEEN SEEKING AND FIGHTING AGAINST THEIR FOES FOR 17 YEARS... IF I THINK THAT WAY ..
THE BIG BROS HAVE BEEN AT IT FOR 17 YEARS...

SFX: ba-dump!

SFX: dash!

SrX. crack crack

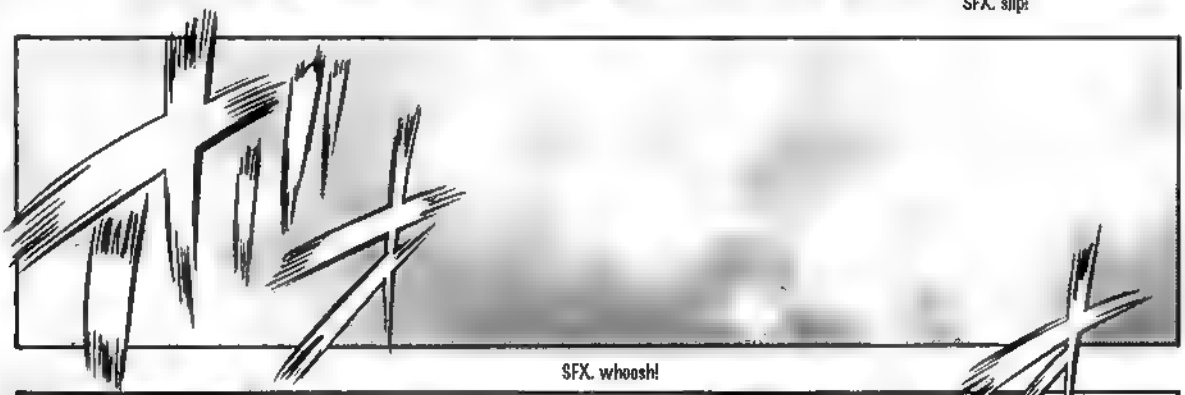
A FIRE!?

PLEASE EVACUATE IN AN ORDERLY MANNER! DON'T STAY BEHIND!
NO NEED TO HURRY, EVERY-THING WILL BE OKAY!
SFX. wwaaah!
PLEASE BE OR-DERLY...
FORGET THAT, THE EVACUATION OF CUSTOM-ERS TAKES PRIORITY!
ABOUT THE ORIGIN OF THE FIRE, THE SECURITY GUARDS SAID ..
THAT THEY DON'T KNOW WHERE IT STARTED...
HAVE YOU CON-TACTED THE FIRE DE-PART-MENT!?
YES!!
THEY SAID THEY'RE STUCK IN TRAF-FIC... IT WILL TAKE THEM A LITTLE WHILE TO ARRIVE!
SFX. wind blowing

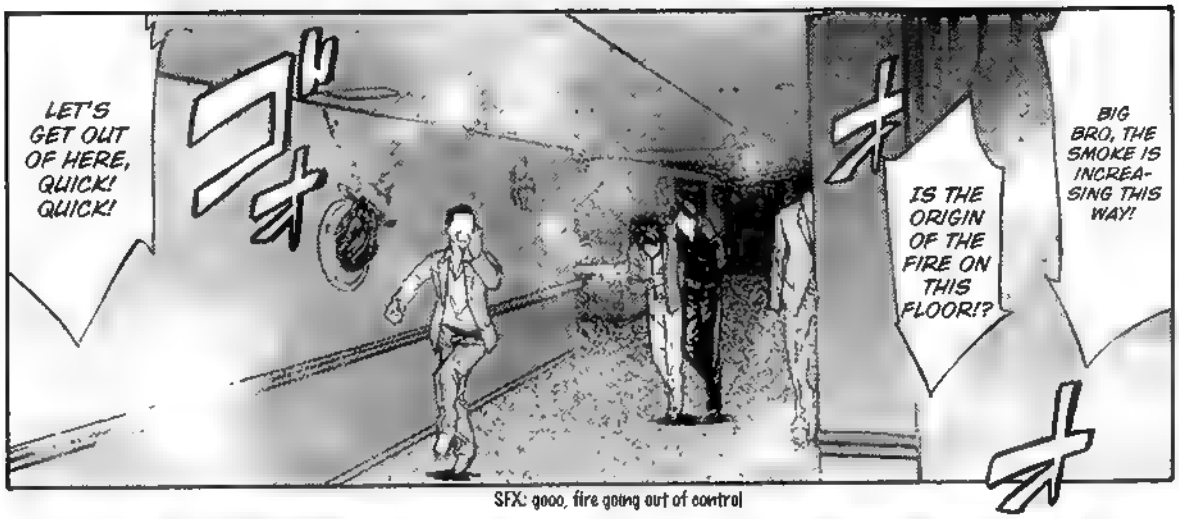
EXCUSE ME... I'M JOINING THE SEARCH WITHIN THE BUILD-ING, TOO!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!? IT'S DAN-GEROUS, ALL ORDI-NARY CITIZENS PLEASE FALL BACK!!

TS/N: B tches don't know bout hih no s magic nose. Shit's anyth ng but ord nary

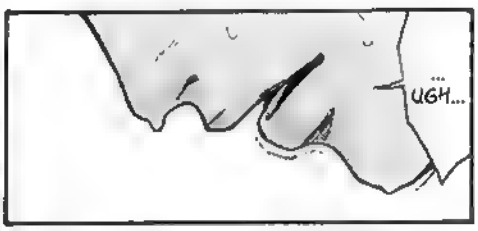
SFX. slip!

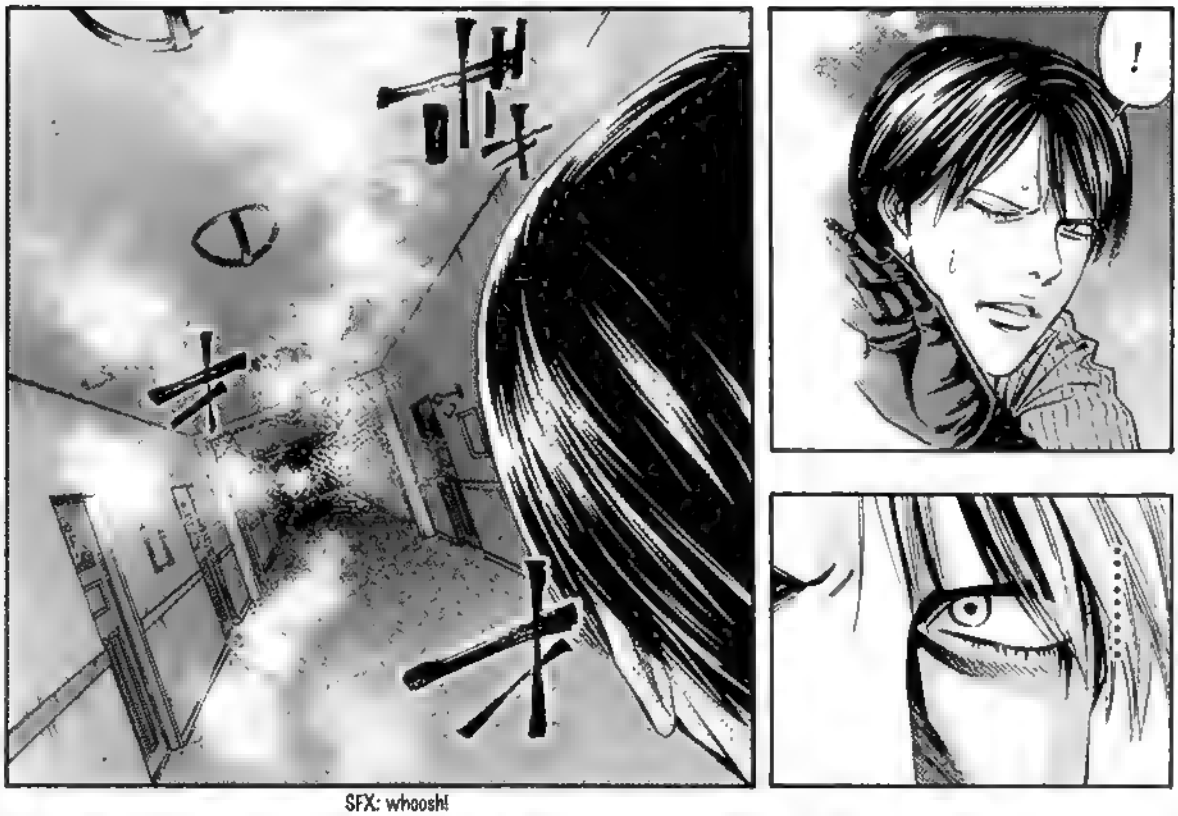


SFX. whoosh!



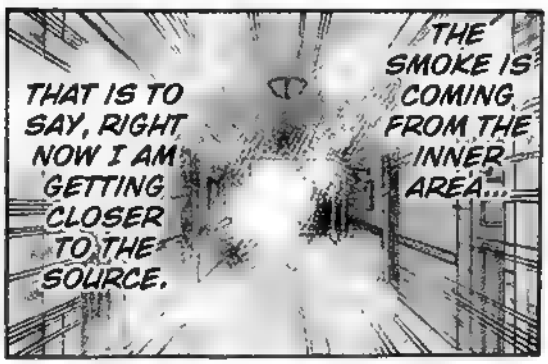
SFX: gooo, fire going out of control





SFX: whoosh!

SFX: dash!



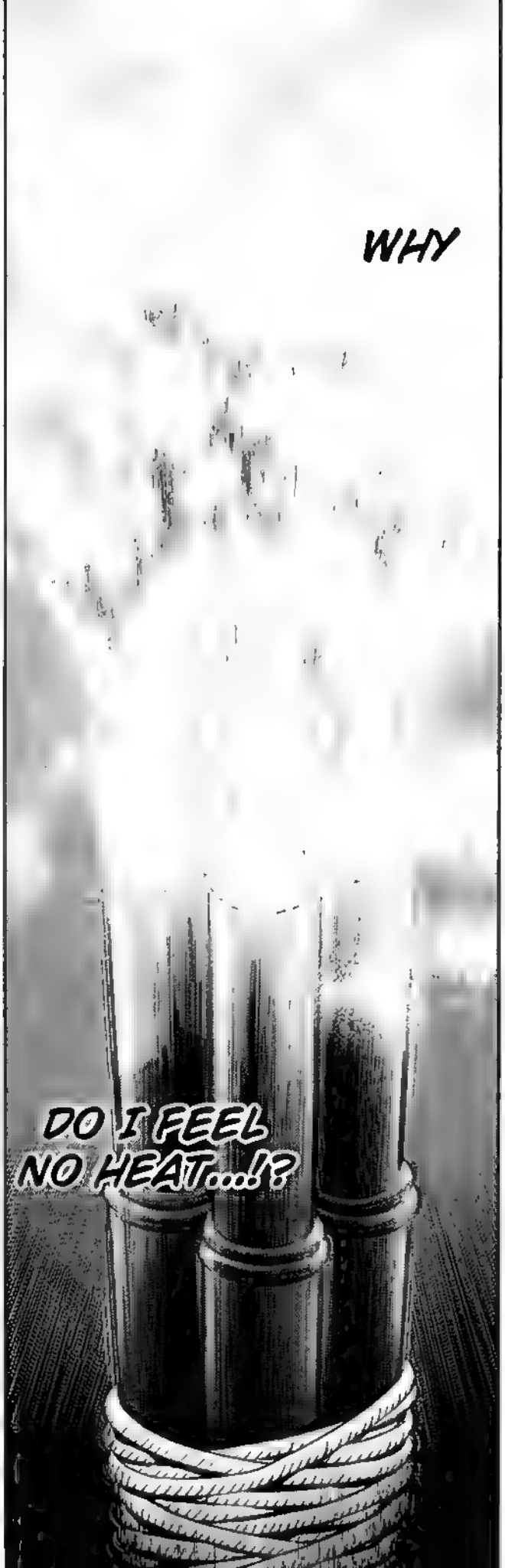
SFX: whoosh!

FA!!

SFX: dash!

ME... IKUO... HAYATO... OSHITARI...
I HAD THOUGHT THAT, OTHER THAN ORDINARY CUSTOMERS, THE ONLY ONES IN THIS BUILDING WERE THE FOUR OF US.

SOMEONE ELSE IS HERE...
SOMEONE WHO USED A SMOKE BOMB TO CREATE A FALSE ALARM.


WHY
DO I FEEL NO HEAT...!?

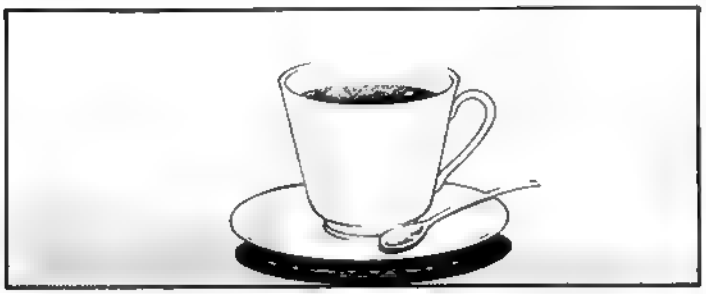
COUGH!
COUGH!
NO WAY, ARE THEY ALREADY THIS CLOSE...!?
RATHER, RIGHT NOW IT'S SAFER TO GO ALONG WITH THEM.
NO... EVEN IF I MANAGE TO GIVE THESE FELLOWS THE SLIP, I CAN'T ESCAPE FROM THE ORGANIZATION.
WHERE DID DANNO GO...!?
ARE YOU OKAY? HEY!?
COME TO THINK OF IT, IF I DON'T RETRIEVE GANAHA'S CORPSE, WHICH I HID ON THE SECOND FLOOR...
!
TS.N They say shit you do for 3 months become a habit... Imagine shit you do for 17 years
THESE ZERO HABITS HAVE GOTTEN UNDER MY SKIN... DAMN...
NO, THAT IS NO LONGER NECESSARY.
SHOULD I MAKE A RUN FOR IT RIGHT NOW...?

IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, SAKURAI, WHO WORKED WITH ME WHEN WE WERE STATIONED IN AUSTRALIA AS PART OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIVISION, IS WORKING THERE AS RESIDENT STAFF... CAN I TRUST HIM?
I WANT TO GET THIS OVER WITH QUICK AND FLY AWAY TO EUROPE.
.....
BIG BRO DANNO! WHERE ARE YOU!?
I AM FED UP WITH THIS COUNTRY.
IT WON'T BE BAD TO HAVE SOME FUN UNTIL THE DUST SETTLES.
I'LL SURVIVE THIS AND IT WILL BE OVER... I'LL ENJOY LIFE TO THE FULLEST NOW.
Hehe heh...
FOR THESE PAST 17 YEARS, I GAVE MY BODY AND SOUL TO ACCOMPLISH MY PUBLIC SECURITY MISSIONS.
SAFE

SFX: grab!

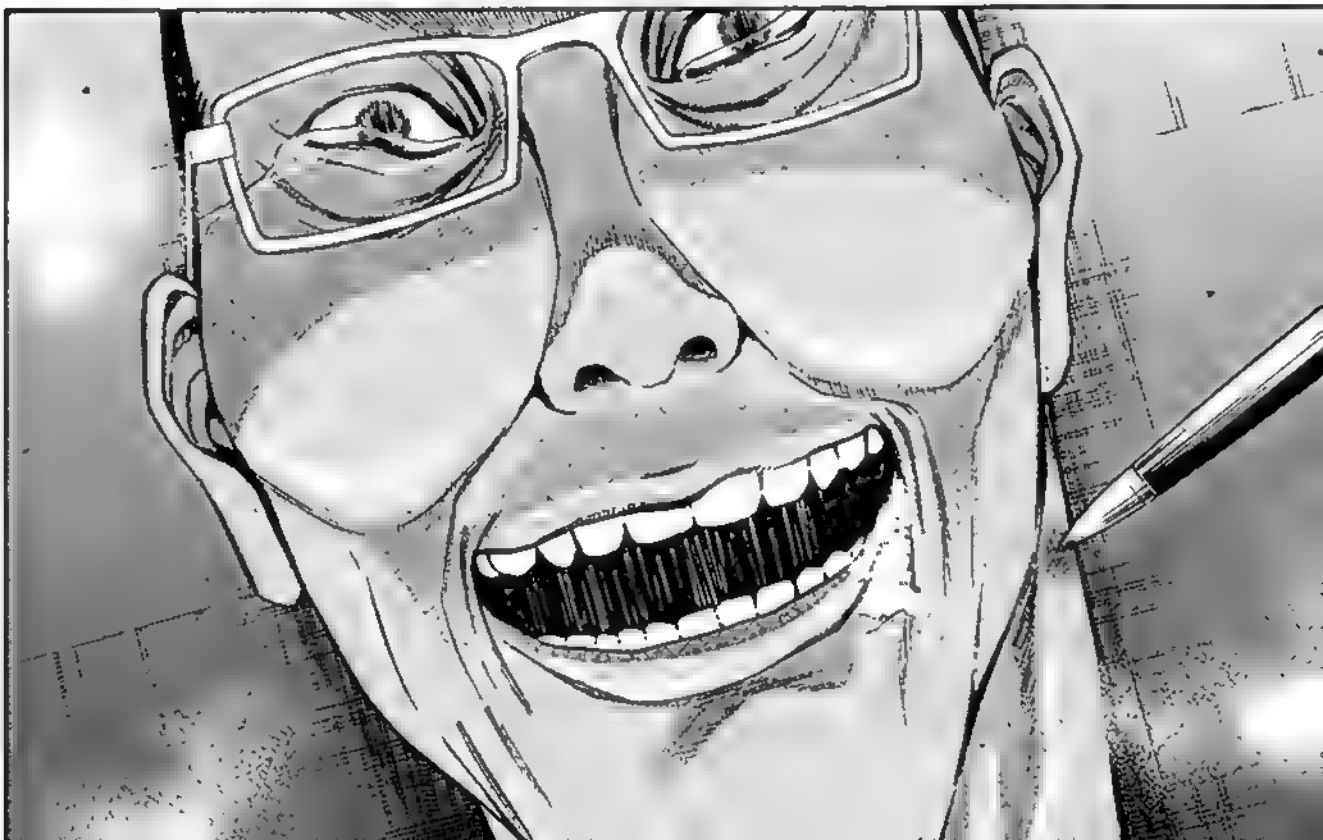
TS/N: It was at this moment that Oshitari realized he tucked up.

TS, N: God dammit Rudolph. Who the f..ck let yo.. in?



POLICE
FREE, AT LAST...
I AM...
POLICE

PRIN: Of course on the chapter work on, Zero dies.



ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

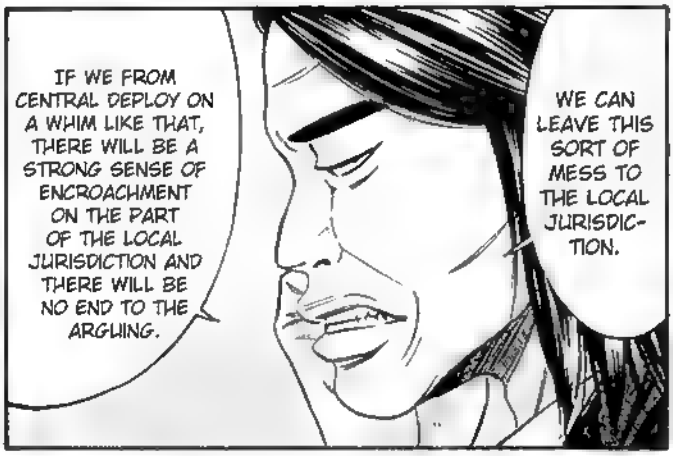
ouroboros

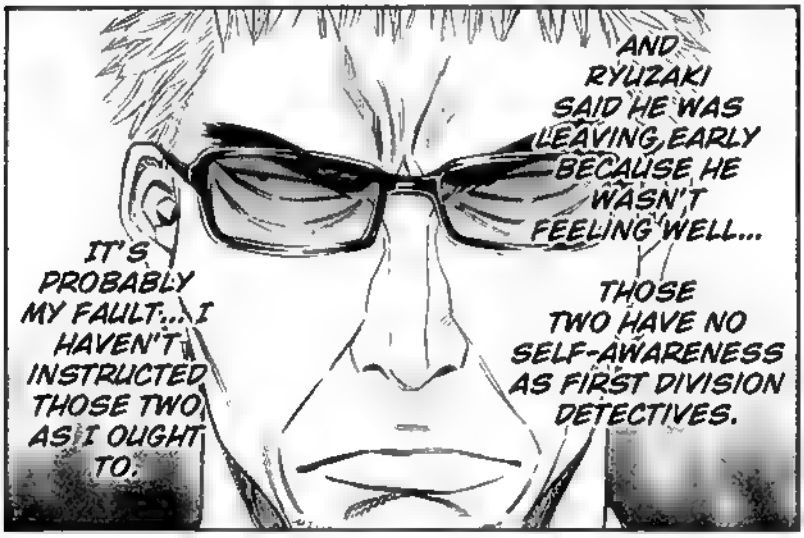
LIVE 東京コスモランドより生中継
THESE ARE IMAGES OF THE FIRE REPORTED A SHORT WHILE AGO AT "HOTEL DESPERATE", THE HAUNTED HOUSE ATTRACTION OF THE BUNKYO WARD AMUSEMENT PARK "TOKYO COSMOLAND"!

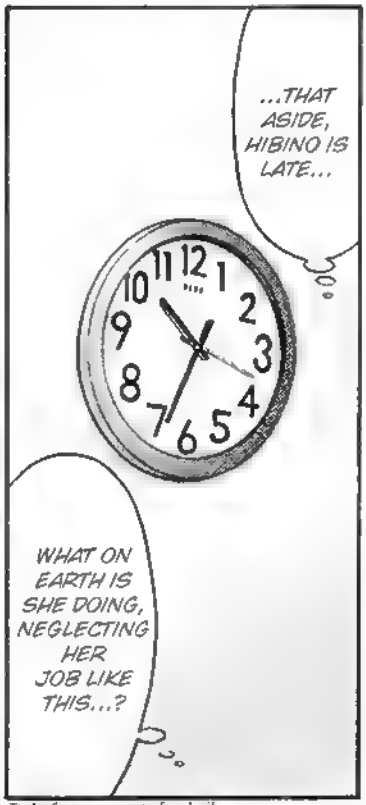
THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF ARSON OR ANY STRUCTURAL DAMAGE TO THE BUILDING ITSELF!
ACCORDING TO AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE FIRE-FIGHTERS, THE HEAVY SMOKE THAT COULD BE SEEN FROM OUTSIDE WAS DUE TO SEVERAL SMOKE BOMBS.

OUR SPECIALTY IS MURDER INVESTIGATION. WHAT BUSINESS DO WE HAVE IN A CRIME SCENE WITHOUT CORPSES?
SHOULDN'T THE FIRST DIVISION MAKE A MOVE?
SERIOUSLY, IS THIS OUTRAGEOUS OR WHAT!?
STILL... WHO ON EARTH WOULD ULL OFF UCH A RANK IN ERRIBLE ASTE...

...HMPH.


IF WE FROM CENTRAL DEPLOY ON A WHIM LIKE THAT, THERE WILL BE A STRONG SENSE OF ENCROACHMENT ON THE PART OF THE LOCAL JURISDICTION AND THERE WILL BE NO END TO THE ARGUING.
WE CAN LEAVE THIS SORT OF MESS TO THE LOCAL JURISDIC-TION.


AND RYUZAKI SAID HE WAS LEAVING EARLY BECAUSE HE WASN'T FEELING WELL...
IT'S PROBABLY MY FAULT... I HAVEN'T INSTRUCTED THOSE TWO AS I OUGHT TO.
THOSE TWO HAVE NO SELF-AWARENESS AS FIRST DIVISION DETECTIVES.

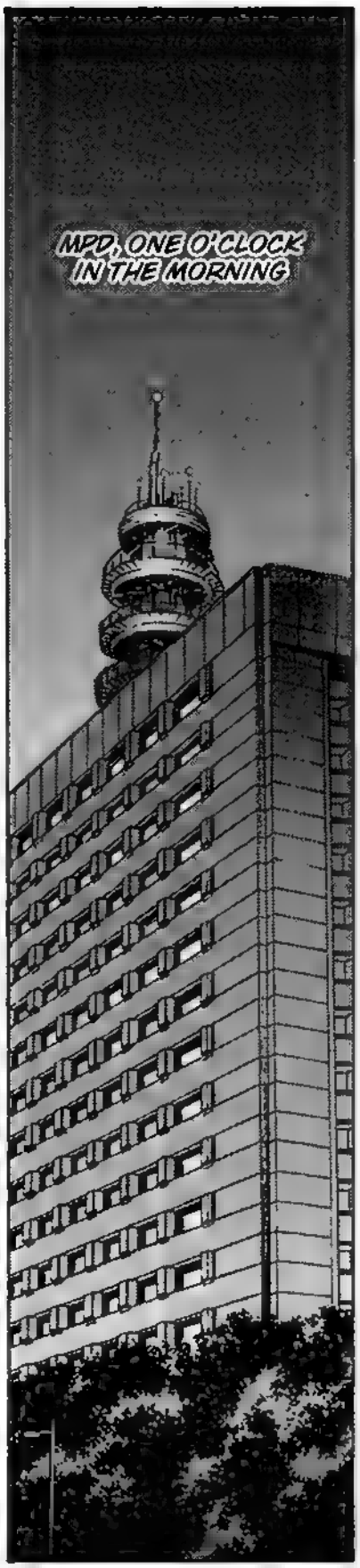

...THAT ASIDE, HIBINO IS LATE...
WHAT ON EARTH IS SHE DOING, NEGLECTING HER JOB LIKE THIS...?

?
HEY... THAT'S...
!?

WHAT IS THAT ABOUT!?
WHAT, YOU ASK? WELL, THAT'S WHAT, LOOK!!
HUH? YEAH, WHAT OF IT?
... BAN-DO-SAN...! AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE MEN-TORING HIBINO?
FORTUNATELY, THERE HAVE BEEN NO INJURIES AMONG THE CUSTOMERS AND EVERYONE IS SAFE...
?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING
!?
!!

路
第13話
CHAPTER 82: PATH

SFX: quick steps
WHAT WAS THE RESULT OF THE ON-SITE INSPECTION OF THE TOKYO COSMOLAND INCIDENT?
DO YOU HAVE ANY LEADS ON THE PERPETRATOR'S IDENTITY?



SFX: blah blah
BUT WASN'T ONE OF THE FIRST-RESPONDERS AT THE SCENE A FEMALE DETECTIVE OF CENTRAL'S FIRST DIVISION?
HEY, LET ME FINISH! WAI...
Y-YOU SEE, THIS CASE HAS BEEN LEFT TO THE LOCAL JURISDICTION OF THE FUKUOKA STATION...
JUST WHAT KIND OF CASE IS THIS...

TS/N: And mma let you finish, but if your face were any uglier, you'd be cons dered a fema e ang er fish.

GIVE US SOME NEW INFORMATION, PLEASE!
TH-THE INVESTIGATION IS STILL UNDERWAY, DON'T YOU KNOW...!
IF WE DON'T GET SOMETHING SOON, WE WILL MISS THE DEADLINE FOR THE MORNING EDITION! SO, GIVE US MORE DETAILS...
SFX. step step
SFX. blah blah blah

I SHOULD EXPECT THAT YOU NOBODIES WOULD SHOW MORE DEFERENCE TOWARDS THE ONES ON WHOSE ACTIVITIES YOU REPORT.
AH.

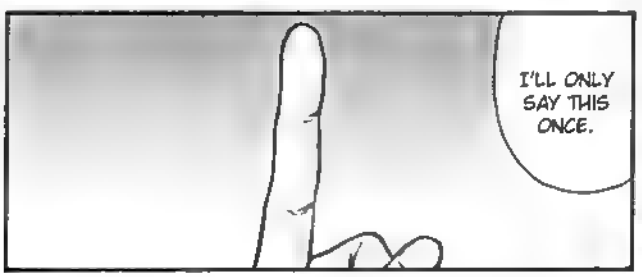
WE'RE INVESTIGATING THIS, WE'RE INVESTIGATING THAT, GIVE US A BREAK! IT'S BECAUSE YOU KEEP MAKING THESE SORTS OF HALF-BAKED STATEMENTS THAT THE POLICE HAVE BECOME A LAUGHING-STOCK THESE DAYS...
SFX. slap!

SFX. crack!

SFX. crumble crumble

SFX. stare...

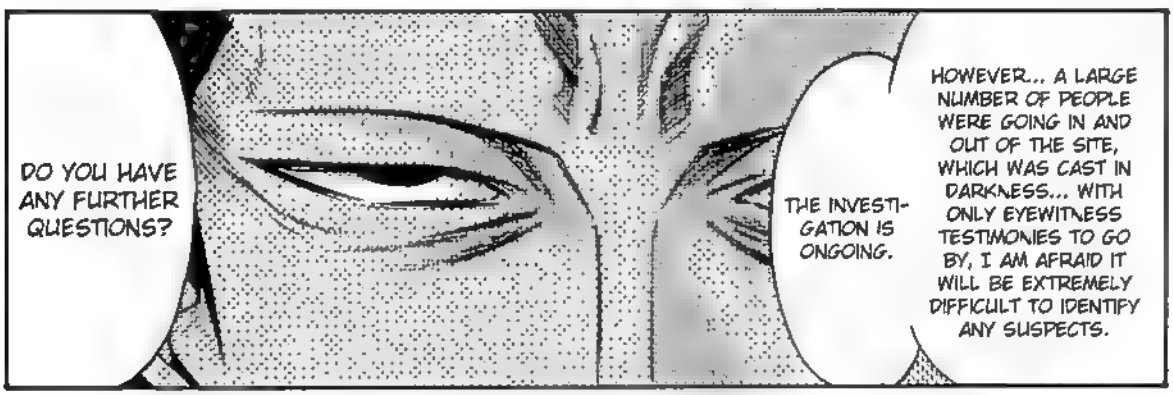
I'LL SEND YOU MY FAVOURITE PEN AS AN APOLOGY TO WHICH NEWSPAPER COMPANY SHOULD I SEND IT?
N-NO! ER... MY APOLOGIES...
FORGIVE ME.
I USED TOO MUCH STRENGTH AND ENDED UP BREAKING YOUR WORK TOOL.



SFX. murmur

TS/N: Yeah... What's a police officer doing at a police station?
TL/N: I'm beginning to wonder whether we should abbreviate this to DSG, as they address him thusly very often

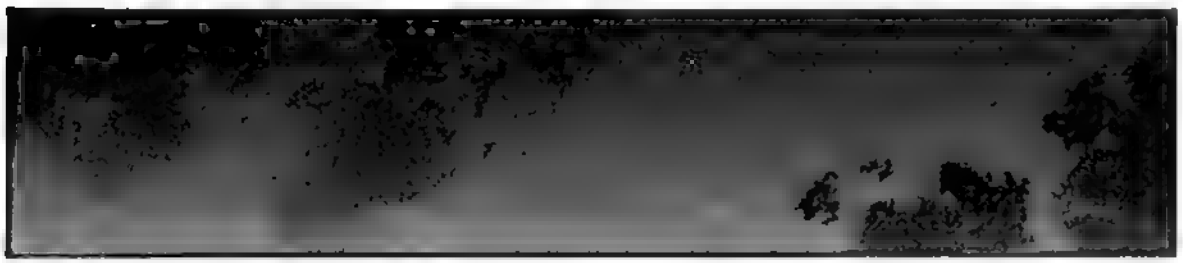
STARTING ONE HOUR BEFORE THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE, THE SOFTWARE THAT CONTROLS THE MONITORING SYSTEM FOR THE PARK WAS DISRUPTED BY A CURRENTLY UNKNOWN PARTY. INCOMPETENCE IN THE SET-UP OF THE SYSTEM PROBABLY MADE THAT POSSIBLE.
IT HAS COME TO LIGHT THAT THREE EMPLOYEES HAD BEEN ON FILE WITH THE POLICE FOR PREVIOUS ACTS OF VIOLENCE
THE GOAL OF THIS COUNTERFEIT ARSON CASE WAS, IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, TO DISRUPT THE BUSINESS OF THAT AMUSEMENT PARK.

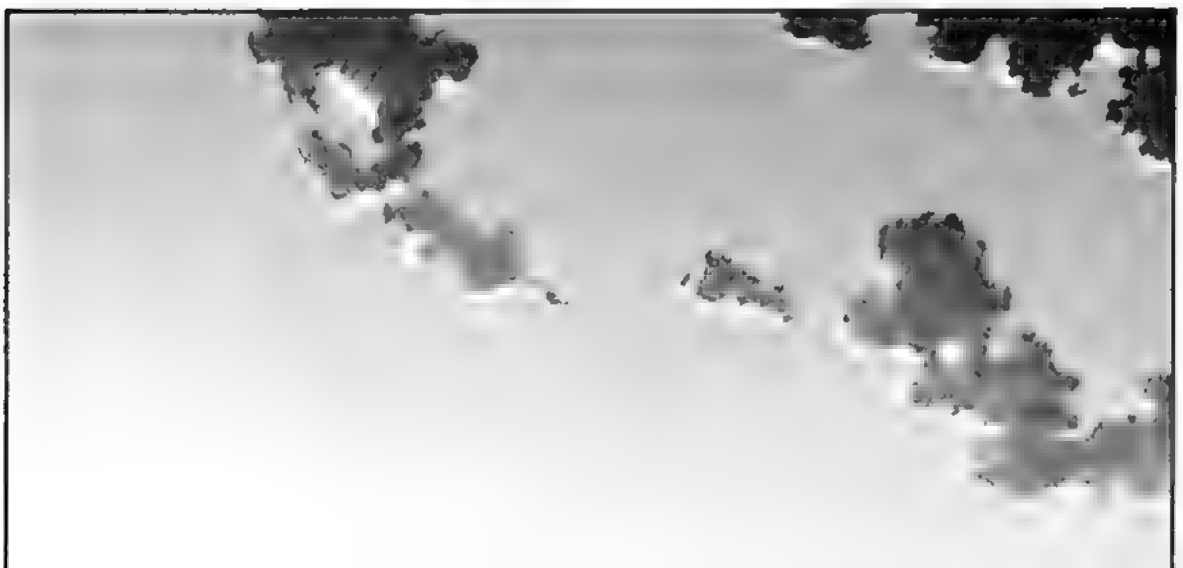

DO YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS?
THE INVESTIGATION IS ONGOING.
HOWEVER... A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WERE GOING IN AND OUT OF THE SITE, WHICH WAS CAST IN DARKNESS... WITH ONLY EYEWITNESS TESTIMONIES TO GO BY, I AM AFRAID IT WILL BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY ANY SUSPECTS.

SFX: step step
I AM BUSY, SO IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME.
TO BEGIN WITH, DON'T YOU HAVE MORE IMPORTANT CASES TO COVER?
IF YOU DON'T, THIS SESSION IS OVER.
.....

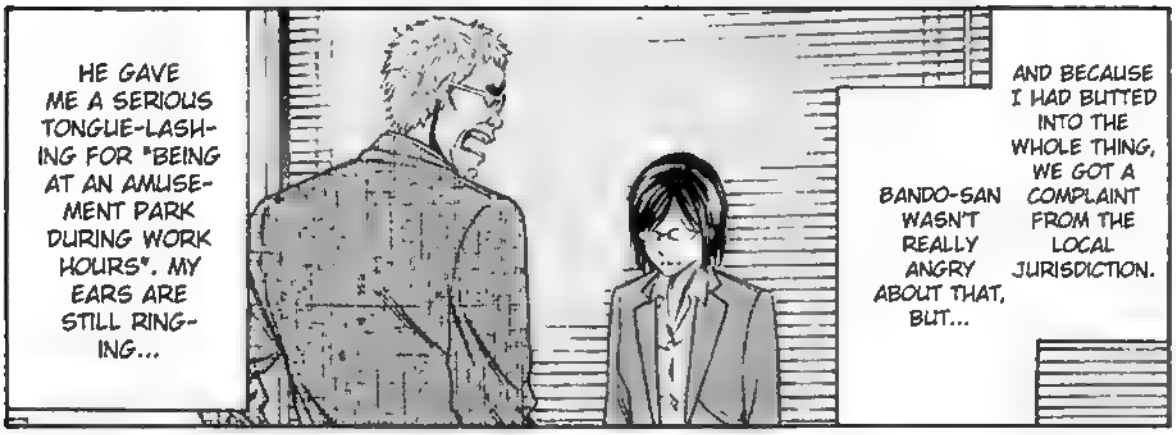
EVEN THOUGH HE IS A GRADUATE OF A TOP-NOTCH UNIVERSITY, HIS CLIMBING FROM THE BOTTOM TO THE VERY TOP AS DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT THROUGH HIS OWN MERIT IS NOT JUST A GOOD STORY... RIGHT?
QUITE AN IMPRESSIVE PRESENCE, HE HAS. "VICE-GENERAL" HIJIRI...

WELL, WHAT WITH THE SNIPING OF THE SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL... DO YOU THINK HE CAN AFFORD CONCERNING HIMSELF WITH CRIMES COMMITTED JUST FOR FUN?
HE IS COMPLETELY ALOOF IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS BROUHAHA! WHAT IS HE FEELING, I WONDER...





A MORNING JUST LIKE ANY OTHER...
IT'S ALMOST LIKE YESTERDAY'S EVENTS WERE JUST A DREAM.
LAST NIGHT, TEAM LEADER ARAGAKI WAS FUMING...


HE GAVE ME A SERIOUS TONGUE-LASHING FOR "BEING AT AN AMUSEMENT PARK DURING WORK HOURS". MY EARS ARE STILL RINGING...
BANDO-SAN WASN'T REALLY ANGRY ABOUT THAT, BUT...
AND BECAUSE I HAD BUTTED INTO THE WHOLE THING, WE GOT A COMPLAINT FROM THE LOCAL JURISDICTION.

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THE REAL REASON...
IT SEEMS RYUZAKI-SAN ALSO TOOK TODAY OFF, SAYING HE'S STILL NOT FEELING WELL.

BUT... I HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE ABOUT THE REAL REASON WHY I WAS THERE.
野菜
NATURALLY, IT WAS BECAUSE OF RYUZAKI-SAN.

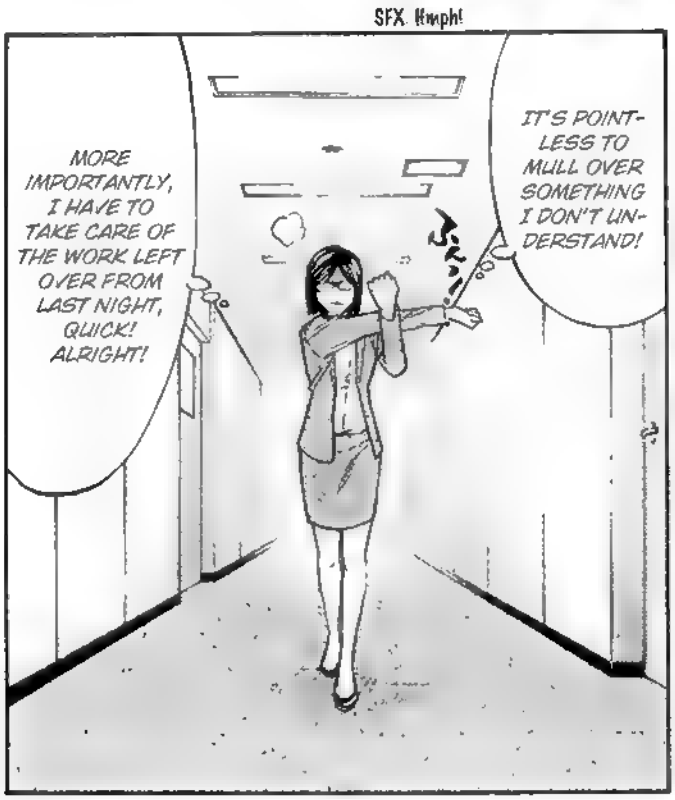
WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED LAST NIGHT...

COVER YOUR MOUTHS WITH YOUR CLOTHES OR A HANDKER-CHIEF AND KEEP A LOW STANCE WHILE YOU MOVE TOWARDS THE EXIT, PLEASE!!
CALM DOWN!
SFX: whoosh!
WATCH YOUR STEP! DON'T RUSH!
THE STAIRS ARE THIS WAY!
COUGH COUGH!!
COUGH!
COUGH!
THIS IS BAD... I'M HAVING TROUBLE BREATH-ING...
SFX: thump
IS THIS ARSON...? WHO WOULD DO SUCH A THING...
IS ANY-BODY STILL HERE!?

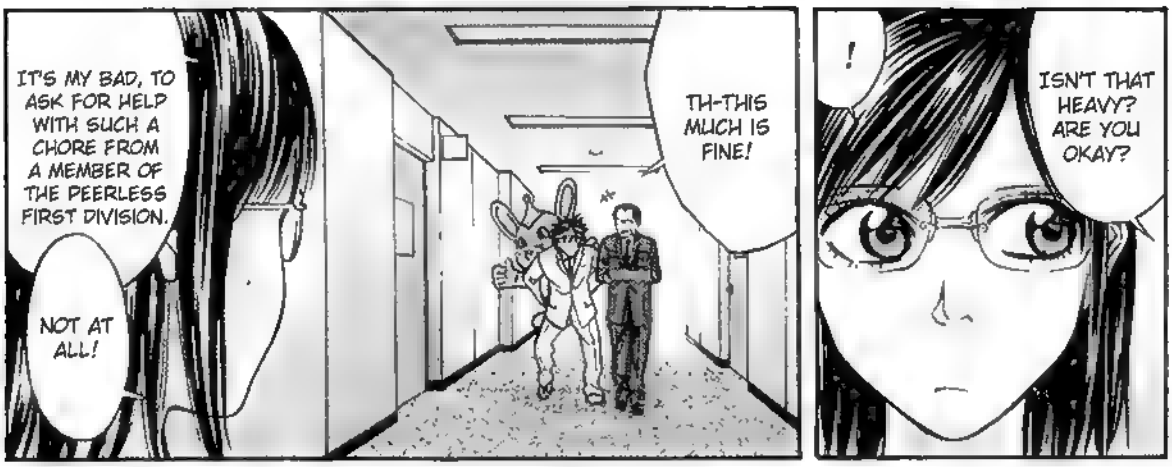
!!
SFX: grab!
SFX: slide!

SFX: crash!
COUGH!
COUGH!
COUGH!!
WHO ARE...!?
!?
AH...
WAI
JUST A..
SFX: whoosh!

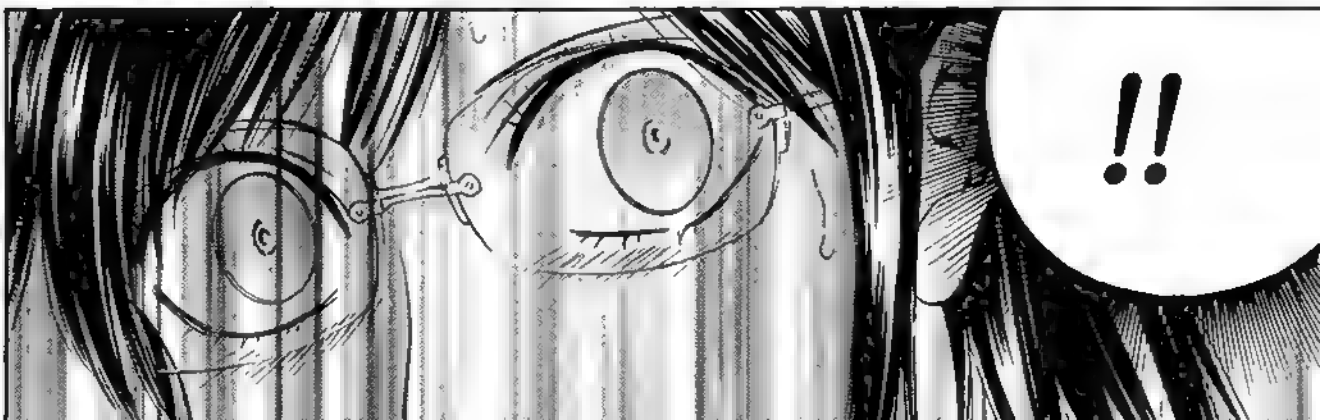
I SAW RYUZAKI-SAN'S RETREATING FIGURE...!!
...I SAW IT CLEARLY AMID THE SMOKE... THE ONE WHO SAVED ME WAS A MAN WEARING BLACK CLOTHES... AND THEN,


SFX: Hmph!
MORE IMPORTANTLY, I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THE WORK LEFT OVER FROM LAST NIGHT, QUICK! ALRIGHT!
IT'S POINTLESS TO MULL OVER SOMETHING I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

SFX: straighten up!


IT'S MY BAD, TO ASK FOR HELP WITH SUCH A CHORE FROM A MEMBER OF THE PEERLESS FIRST DIVISION.
NOT AT ALL!
TH-THIS MUCH IS FINE!
!
ISN'T THAT HEAVY? ARE YOU OKAY?

SFX. wobble wobble



AND THEN MR. DETECTIVE HERE SAID "I'LL LEND YOU A HAND!" REALLY, HE HAS BEEN A GREAT HELP!
PARDON ME... WE FROM THE PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT ARE HAVING STAFF PROBLEMS...
HUH? ARE YOU ALSO A MEMBER OF THE FIRST DIVISION?
WHA...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, RYUZAKI-SAN...!?
YOU'RE... INJURED, AREN'T YOU...!? FROM LAST NIGHT...
ER... I MEAN, R-RYUZAKI-SAN, ARE YOU REALLY OKAY...!?

TS,N Gets shot not 12 hours ago, can barely stand, having difficulty breathing, and goes "Nah, man. I'm good."

!!
...FI-
I'M COMPLETELY FINE NOW!
I'M SORRY, HIBINO-SAN, TO HAVE CAUSED YOU TROUBLE.
NO WAY, YOU ARE FINE, OKAY?!
AFTER HAVING SUFFERED A MAJOR INJURY LIKE THAT LAST NIGHT, TODAY YOU CAN'T...

TS/N: Now you see it

TS/N: Now you don't.

THE STABBED BODY OF A MAN WAS FOUND IN A FLAT IN THE NERIMA WARD! WE'RE GOING IMMEDIATELY!!
RYUZAKI! WE HAVE BEEN IN-STRUCTED TO DEPLOY!
!?

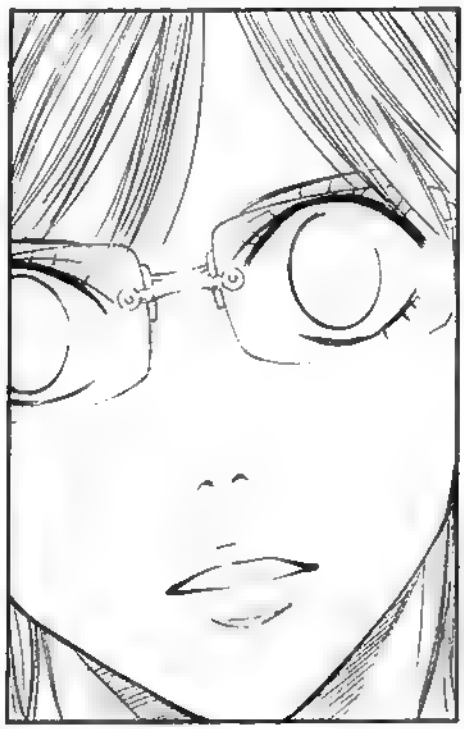
SFX. point

T/N: The verb nokoru can also mean "do overtime work"

TS/N: Jesus, Bando made her **mouth** disappear. The nose does that on its own

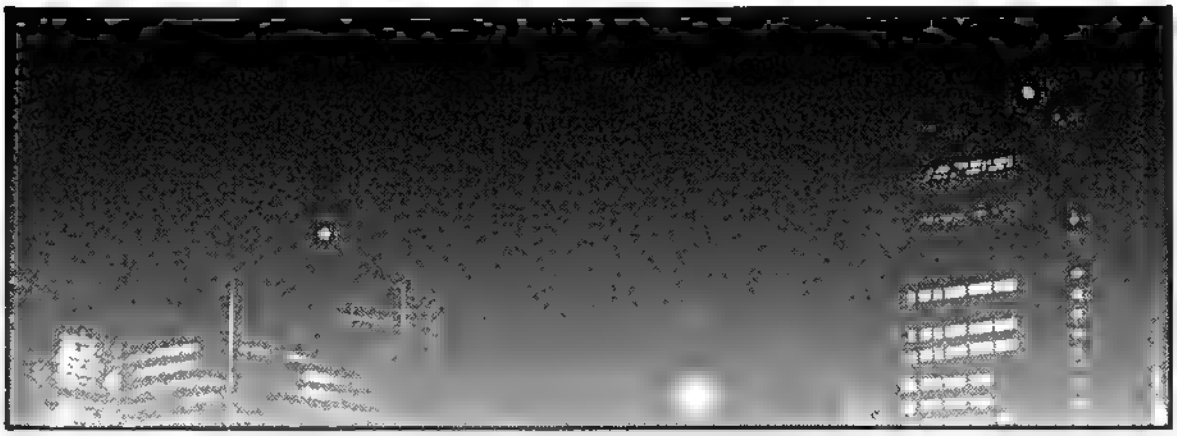
I'LL SEE YOU LATER, HIBINO-SAN.

AGAIN, THOSE EYES...



IT WAS THE SAME THAT TIME.
THOSE EYES OF SOMEONE WHO IS LYING AND CLOSING HIS HEART.
HIBINO-SAN... THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
WHAT ON EARTH COULD IT BE...?
IS THERE SOMETHING HE CANNOT TELL ME, HIS PARTNER...?
I WANT TO KNOW...

I'LL SEE YOU LATER.
I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT RYUZAKI-SAN.



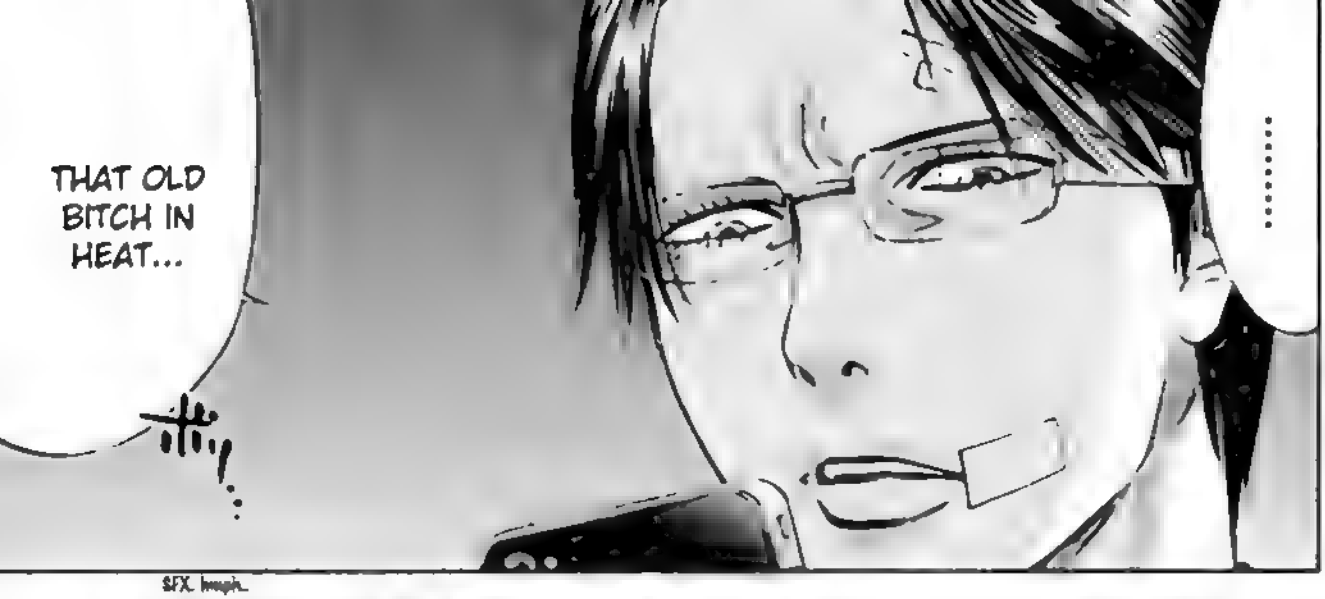
NOT... REALLY...
THAT ASIDE, IS SOMETHING THE MATTER? TO CALL ME LIKE THIS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT
IS SOMETHING GOING ON AT THE MAIN HOUSEHOLD ?
THERE ISN'T... ANYTHING... IN PARTICULAR...
?

TS/N: She caught a cold. Between her legs. In the shape of a dick
What? I hear the damn th ng keeps mutat ng all the t me

TL/N: But surely "something in particular" is going on

HA! I CAN BUY YOU AS MANY OF THOSE TRIFLES AS I WANT!
Awah!
IT'S VERY PLEASANT. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR SUCH A VALUABLE GIFT ..
S-SO, HOW IS IT? DOES IT PLEASE YOU?!
AH... THAT'S RIGHT! THE CRUISER I GAVE YOU AS A CONGRATULATORY GIFT ON YOUR BECOMING A DIRECT FOLLOWER.
SFX. all over the page. Arfl Arfl Arfl Or another heavy breathing sound.
SOUNDS GOOD.
PRIVATE MEETING ♡
IM NOT TALKING A BUSINESS MEETING... A P-P-PRI...
M... MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOW ABOUT WE GO OUT FOR A MEAL ONE OF THESE DAYS?!
IF I GO ANY FURTHER... I'LL DIE...
I-I AM... AT MY LIMIT...
MI-LADY..
AH...
BEEP.
YES! YES, YES! WELL THEN, I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOUR CALL, MIND YOU!
LET ME CALL YOU BACK LATER TO WORK OUT THE DETAILS.

THESE USELESS BASTARDS, THEY DON'T GET ME OFF AT ALL...!
SFX. plop!
SFX. wnam!
BEFORE I KNEW IT, THE ONLY ONE I COULD THINK OF WAS DANNO...
THIS HEART-ACHE... NO MATTER HOW MUCH I SATISFY MY BODY, IT WON'T GO AWAY.
WHEW ...
Pop!
SFX: flutter flutter flutter
LOVE ♡
PERHAPS THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL

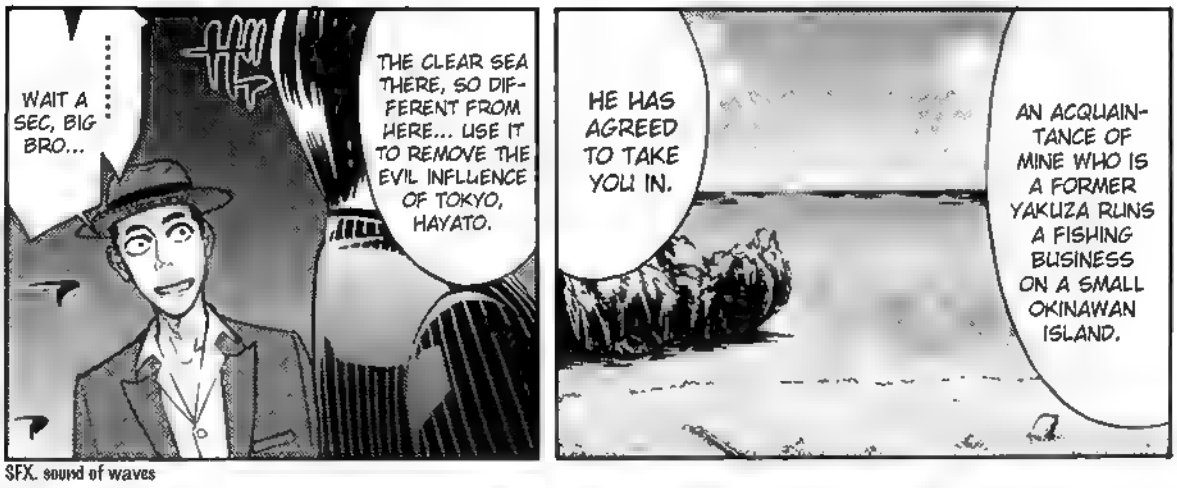


SFX. laugh

THE UNDER-WORLD DOCTOR, THAT GRAMPS IS REALLY SOME-THING ELSE... ※
IT STILL HURTS A BIT, BUT SOMEHOW...
MORE IM-PORTANTLY, IS YOUR WOUND BETTER, IKUO?

※ Refer to volume 01.

!
WHY DID YOU BRING ME TO A PLACE LIKE THIS...
BIG BRO DANNO! WHAT'S GOING ON?
SFX. sound of waves
YEAH.
IT WAS GIVEN TO ME BY A CERTAIN PERVERTED LADY.
...IS THIS YOURS, BIG BRO?
!
THIS IS YOUR ONE-WAY TICKET.
TONIGHT, HAYATO, ESCAPE FROM TOKYO USING THIS CRUISER.


WAIT A SEC, BIG BRO...
THE CLEAR SEA THERE, SO DIFFERENT FROM HERE... USE IT TO REMOVE THE EVIL INFLUENCE OF TOKYO, HAYATO.
HE HAS AGREED TO TAKE YOU IN.
AN ACQUAINTANCE OF MINE WHO IS A FORMER YAKUZA RUNS A FISHING BUSINESS ON A SMALL OKINAWAN ISLAND.

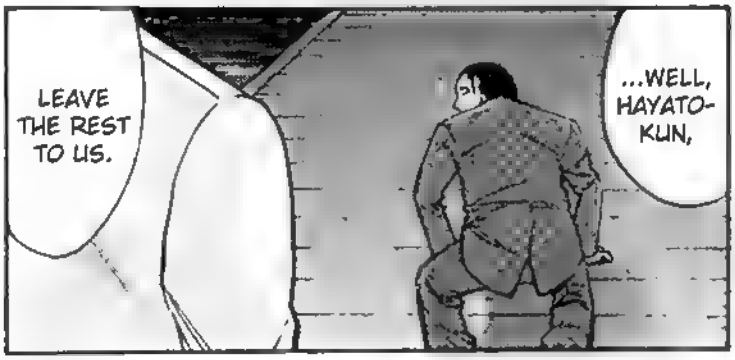
SFX. sound of waves

I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU?
TO ESCAPE FROM TOKYO, YOU MUST BE JOKING...
I WAS GOING TO REGROUP THE YAMASHIRO SYNDICATE AS THE NEXT SUCCESSOR, THOUGH!?

HAS BEEN *A THING OF THE PAST* FOR QUITE A WHILE NOW.
THE YAMASHIRO SYNDICATE YOU BASTARD'S FATHER SPENT HIS WHOLE LIFE BUILDING

YOU MAY BE MY BIG BRO, BUT I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO BADMOUTH MY OLD MAN OR YAMASHIRO...
SHUT THE FUCK UP!
!!
SHUT ...
SFX. dash!
BESIDES, AS A HIGH-RANKING MEMBER OF THE YAMASHIRO LEADERSHIP, YOU ARE A WANTED CRIMINAL, YOU KNOW.
Uh...
Uuh ...
THE YAMASHIRO SYNDICATE HAS BEEN FRAMED AS THE GROUP WHO SNIPED THE SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL.
SFX. trip!
SFX. wham!
YOU ARE REALLY NAIVE.
ACK!?
AND THAT ISN'T ALL THERE IS TO IT... I'M SURE YOU BASTARD SAW IT, TOO?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ZERO FELLOW WHO FAILED TO KILL US?

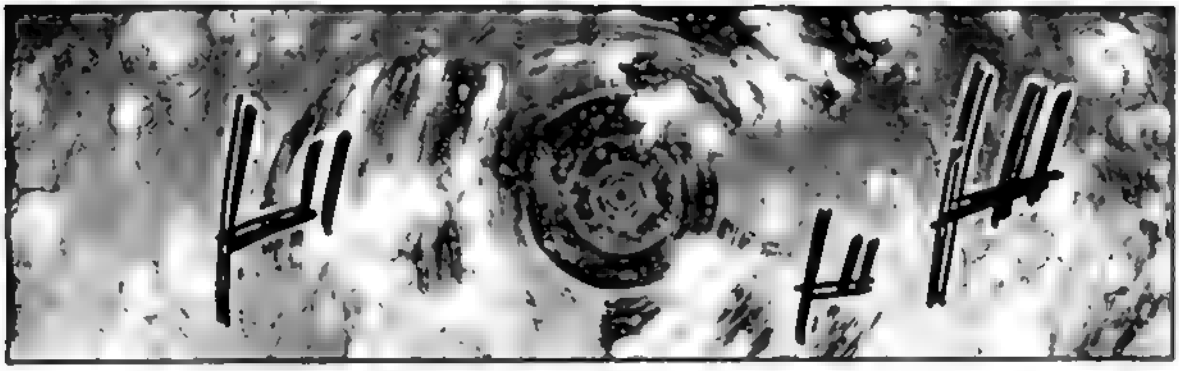
ANOTHER ENEMY WAS CLOSE TO US ALL THE TIME.
WAS SOME-WHERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT RUCKUS.
FROM THE POLICE RE-PORTS, THERE IS NO SIGN THAT THE CORPSES OF OSHITARI AND GANAHA WERE EVEN FOUND AT THAT ATTRAC-TION...
THE PERSON WHO EXECUTED OSHITARI AND COVERED UP THE CASE, AGAIN,
TO EXPOSE HIS IDENTITY AND EXACT REVENGE ON HIM IS A NIGH-IMPOSSI-BLE TASK.
THE MAN WITH THE GOLD WATCH DISCARDS HIS PIECES MERCILESS-LY, EVEN ZERO.
DO YOU THINK WE CAN AFFORD TO BABY-SIT A BRAT...!?
YOU UNDER-STAND IT, NOW...? YOU BASTARD WOULD BE A NUISANCE.



SFX. sound of waves

SO TUCK YOUR TAIL BETWEEN YOUR LEGS AND ESCAPE BEFORE HE KILLS YOU.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE MURDERED IN COLD BLOOD LIKE YOUR FATHER, THAT IS...!

WHILE YOUR FATHER COULDN'T, YOU LIVE ON INSTEAD.


SFX: vrrrl

IT'S A RELIEF TO SEE THE BACK OF THAT TROUBLESOME KID.
HMPH.
...IN THE END, HAYATO-KUN DID GO.
.....
...I'LL KILL YOU, BASTARD.
.....
YOU AREN'T VERY HONEST, ARE YOU, TAT-CHAN?
!
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE TIME YOU CAME TO RESCUE US.
SNAPPING IS SOMETHING THAT HAS HAPPENED TO HIM SINCE THE OLD DAYS... HOWEVER,
THAT TIME, IKUO WAS CLEARLY DIFFERENT.
THAT ASIDE,
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY?
YEAH... AS I SAID, SO LONG AS I DON'T ENGAGE IN INTENSE VEMENTS, WOUND...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN, IDIOT.

EVEN FAILED TO RECOGNIZE ME FOR A MOMENT.

I SAW THE MUZZLE OF A GUN POINTED AT ME.
I SAW THE FACES OF THE ZERO FELLOWS WHO KILLED YUIKO-SENSEI, AND ALONG WITH THAT,
WHEN I SUFFERED THE HEAD-ACHE AGAIN IN THE AMUSEMENT PARK...
I WAS SURE THAT WAS SOME ZERO FELLOW POINTING THE GUN AT ME...
BUT,
IT WASN'T.

IKUO.

TL/N: WHAT!?!

...I'M SORRY,

TS/N: PLOT TWIST!!

THE ONE WHO WAS GOING TO KILL ME
WAS THE PERSON I LOVED MOST IN THIS WORLD.

NO WAY, I CAN'T EVEN USE MY CELL PHONE. I'M REALLY GOING TO THE STICKS...
...WHAT'S WITH THAT, AN ISLAND... DAMN, THAT SUCKS...
SFX. sound of waves
SHIT!
MY CHIN HURTS FROM THE FALL, DAMN!
THAT BIG BRO DANNO, DECIDING THINGS FOR MYSELF... THIS PISSES ME OFF.
...OH WELL,
"TELL ME... WHEN YOU ARE DONE GETTING YOUR REVENGE, WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO?"
HE SAID THIS WAS ALL FOR MY BENEFIT, AND I UNDERSTAND THAT MUCH, BUT STILL...!
"THE ONLY REASON TO LIVE... YOU SAY.
ARE YOU PERHAPS SAYING..."
"OUR ONLY GOAL IS TO PURSUE REVENGE TO THE END.
IT'S OUR SOLE REASON TO LIVE!"

IF YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE,

DIE ON ME, I WON'T FORGIVE YOU...!!

ouroboros

Next issue will be ———

Comic Art
Kanzaki Yuya

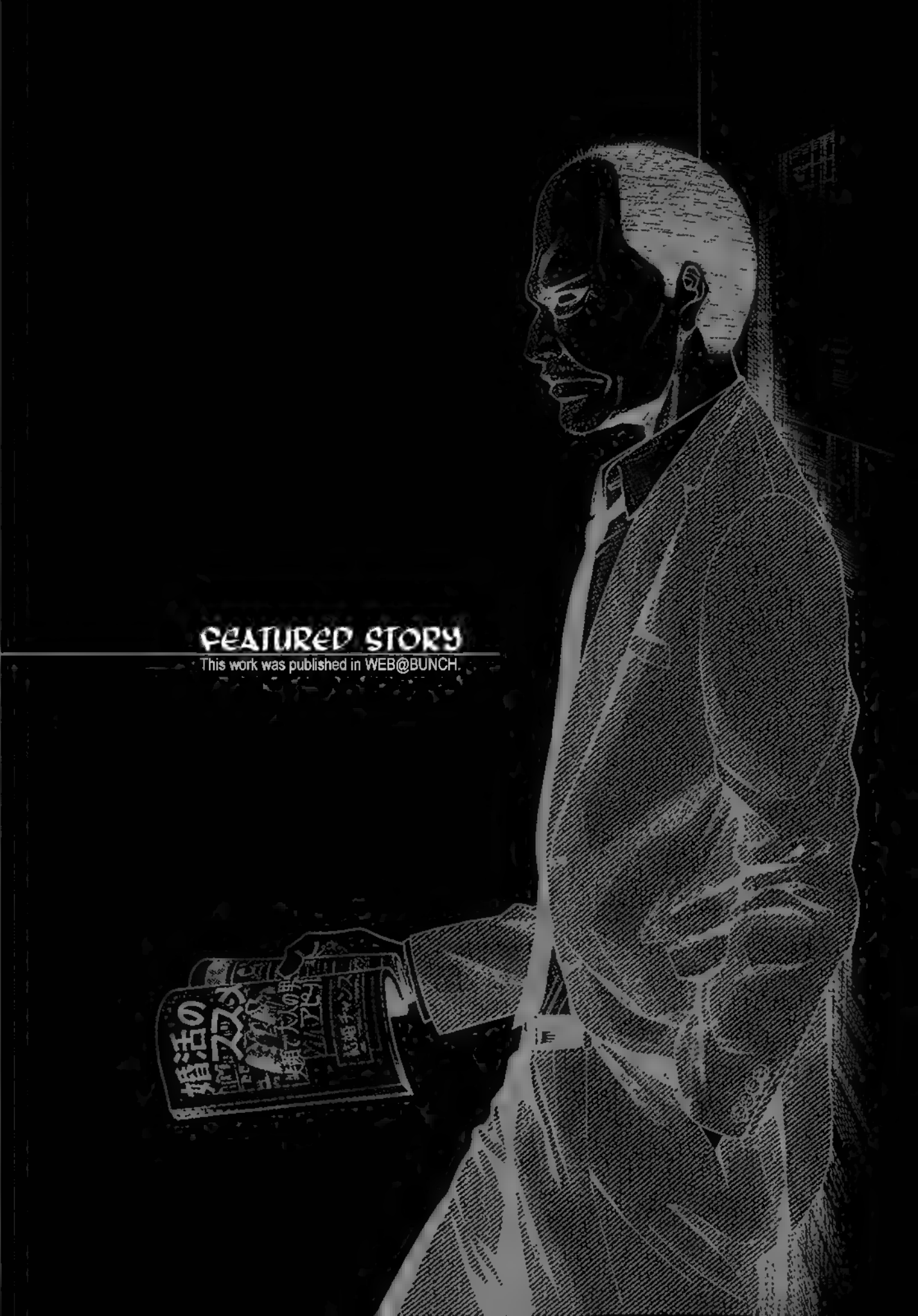
Assistant Regular&Help
Katou Toshiaki

Fujita Rikiya

Iwaya Akira

Inoue Minako

Miura Masahiro


FEATURED STORY
This work was published in WEB@BUNCH.

SFX: crowd noises

SFX: traffic noises

TL/N: I'm not entirely satisfied with this translation. Bakusetsudan is the name used in Japan for particularly vicious robbery that uses audacious methods, such as heavy machinery for breaking into a place. It's a Chinese loanword.

EVEN THOUGH IT HAPPENED IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, WE'RE SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF KABUKICHO DISTRICT... SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE ARE BOUND TO CATCH SOMEONE'S EYE, AND YET THERE ARE ZERO EYEWITNESSES...
...EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT, IT'S STRANGE...
?
THEY WILL WAIT PATIENTLY UNTIL THE DUST SETTLES BEFORE MAKING ANOTHER MOVE.
THE TECHNIQUE WAS CAREFUL AND YET AUDACIOUS... THIS IS A SKILLED AND WATCHFUL GROUP WE'RE TALKING ABOUT... AND YOU KNOW WHAT?
W-WE UNDERSTAND! WE WILL PURSUE THE INVESTIGATION WITH ALL RESOURCES AT OUR DISPOSAL! OKAY?
AS MANAGER, I AM LIABLE BEFORE THE OWNER!
M-M-M-MISTER DETECTIVE!!
IT WOULD BE AMAZING IF YOU CAUGHT THE CRIMINALS, BUT AT THE VERY LEAST, RECOVER THE STOLEN MERCHANDISE!!
WHERE'S SECTION CHIEF MISHIMA...? HE WAS HERE A MINUTE AGO...
昼キャバ
SFX. looking around
...HUH?
K-KURA-SAN!
I BEG YOU, PLEEEAASE!!

On sign: daytime cabaret - open

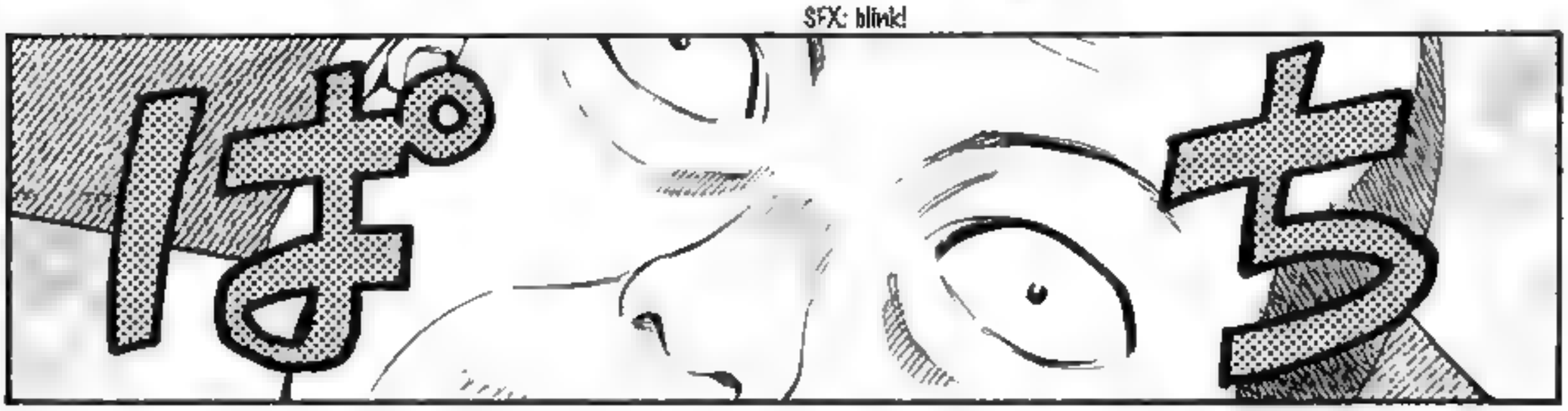
Ouroboros Side Story

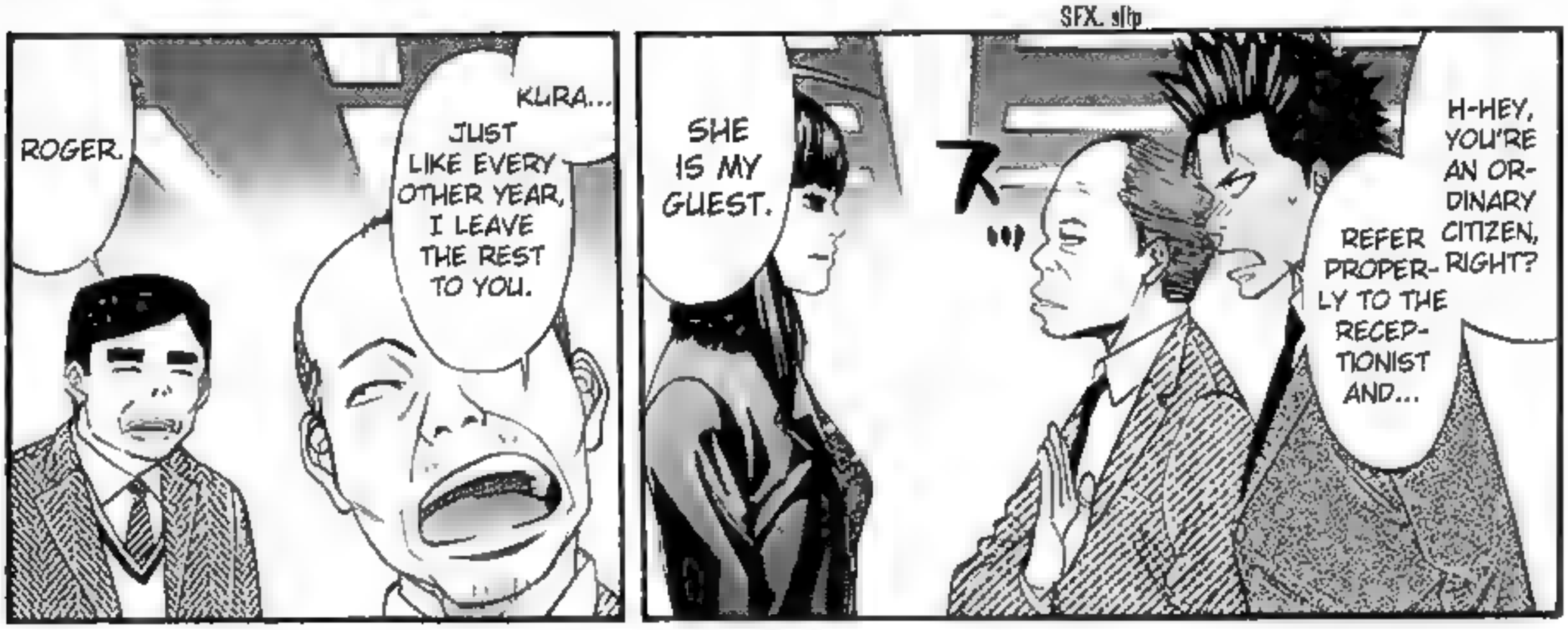
SECTION CHIEF MISHIMA'S CASE FILE

Opening

SFX: step!
IS MISHI-MA-SAN HERE...?

SNOOOOOOORE
SNOOOOORE
WHAT BUSINESS COULD SUCH A WOMAN HAVE WITH THE SECTION CHIEF..
H-HEY... WHO COULD THAT LADY BE... A TOTAL BABE...


SFX: blink!

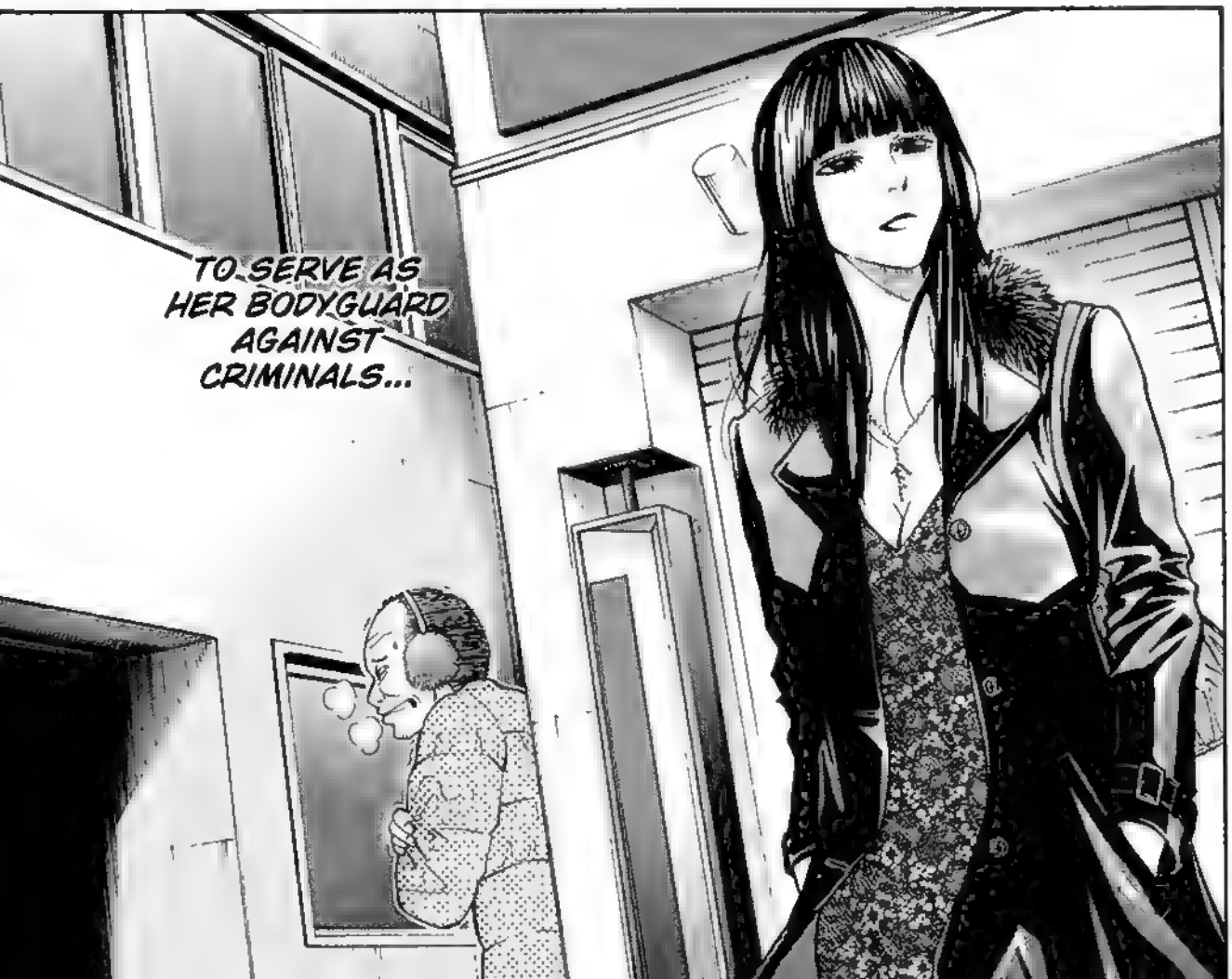

SFX. slip
ROGER.
KURA... JUST LIKE EVERY OTHER YEAR, I LEAVE THE REST TO YOU.
SHE IS MY GUEST.
H-HEY, YOU'RE AN ORDINARY CITIZEN, RIGHT? REFER PROPERLY TO THE RECEPTIONIST AND...

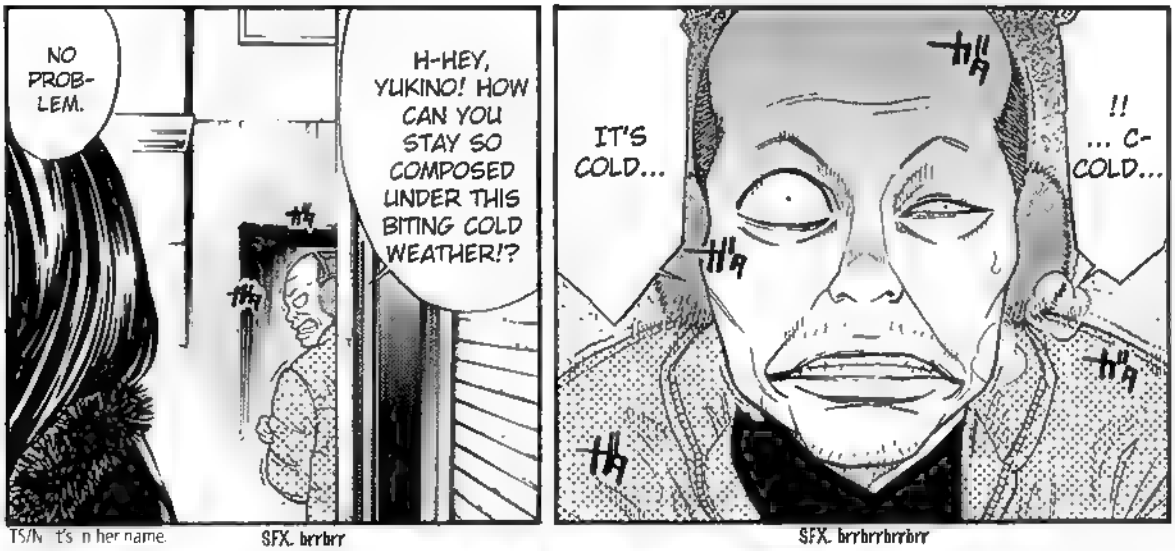
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSI-NESS! FOOL!
.....
MISHI-MA-SAN... HAVE YOU LOST SOME MORE HAIR?
HER NAME IS "YUKINO KURA-HASHI".
EVEN NOWA-DAYS, THERE ARE MANY "LOI-TERING WOMEN" LIKE HER IN SHINJUKU... IN SHORT, SHE'S A PROSTITUTE.
WHA...
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT!?
Don't touch my scalp, it's sensitive!
Looks like a huge chick-pea ♪
KANDORI... WAS THIS THE FIRST TIME YOU MET THAT WOMAN?

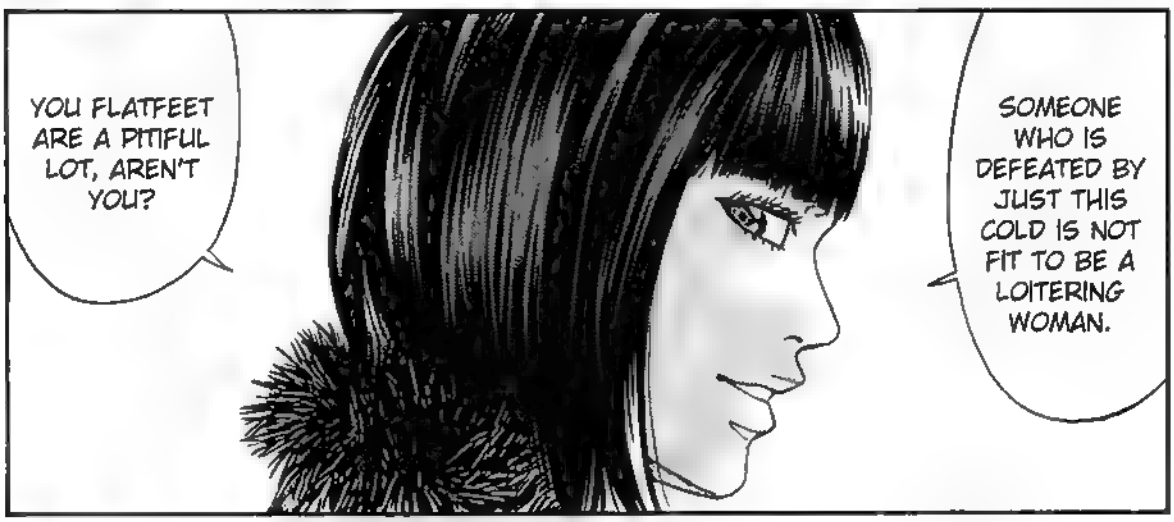
TL/N: If were to guess, "lo tering" must be a misdemeanour/euphemism/police jargon for women like her.

16
17
18
23
Emperor's Birthday
24
25
20
21
IT'S BECAUSE TODAY IS CHRISTMAS EVE.
? WHAT BUSINESS DOES THAT SORT OF WOMAN HAVE WITH THE SECTION CHIEF...

EVERY YEAR AT THIS DATE, FOR ABOUT FIVE YEARS NOW... IT SEEMS TO BE AN ESTABLISHED CUSTOM OF THE SECTION CHIEF'S...


TO SERVE AS HER BODYGUARD AGAINST CRIMINALS...


NO PROB-LEM.
H-HEY, YUKINO! HOW CAN YOU STAY SO COMPOSED UNDER THIS BITING COLD WEATHER!?
IT'S COLD...
!! ... C-COLD...
TS/N: t's n her name.
SFX. brrbrr
SFX. brrbrrbrrbrr

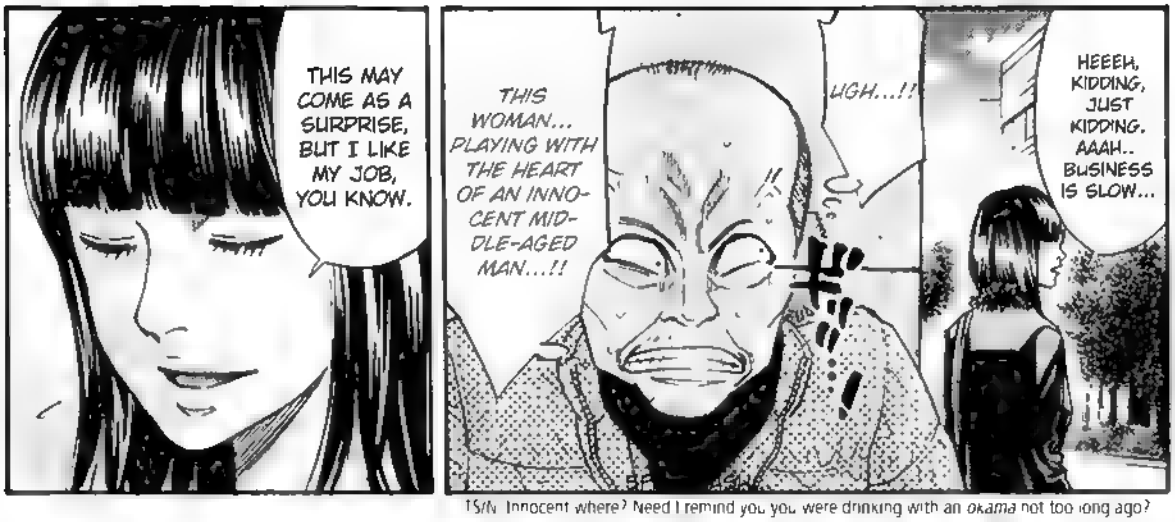

YOU FLATFEET ARE A PITIFUL LOT, AREN'T YOU?
SOMEONE WHO IS DEFEATED BY JUST THIS COLD IS NOT FIT TO BE A LOITERING WOMAN.

YOU'RE RIGHT...
.....

SFX. ba-dump!

!!
Wha...
WELL, THEN, MISHIMA-SAN, AFTER I QUIT, WOULD YOU DO ME THE HONOR OF TAKING ME AS YOUR BRIDE?

JUST QUIT THIS IRRE-SPONSIBLE LIFE AL-READY!
IS THAT SOMETHING TO BOAST ABOUT? YOU'RE AL-READY TURNING 30 THIS YEAR!


THIS MAY COME AS A SURPRISE, BUT I LIKE MY JOB, YOU KNOW.
THIS WOMAN... PLAYING WITH THE HEART OF AN INNOCENT MIDDLE-AGED MAN...!!
UGH...!!
HEEEH, KIDDING, JUST KIDDING. AAAH.. BUSINESS IS SLOW...

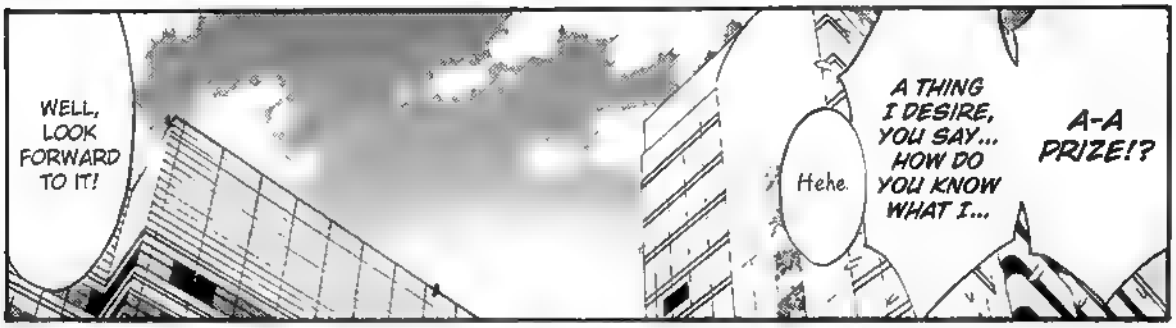
TS/N: Innocent where? Need I remind you you were drinking with an *okama* not too long ago?

PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOWHERE TO GO.
EVEN IF IT'S JUST FOR A FEW HOURS, BEING ABLE TO MAKE THEM FEEL THEY BELONG SOMEWHERE GIVES ME A GOOD FEELING, TOO.
PEOPLE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR WAY.
MANY PEOPLE WHO PASS BY THESE DARK BACK-ALLEYS OF LIFE CANNOT SHOW THEMSELVES ON THE MAIN STREET.

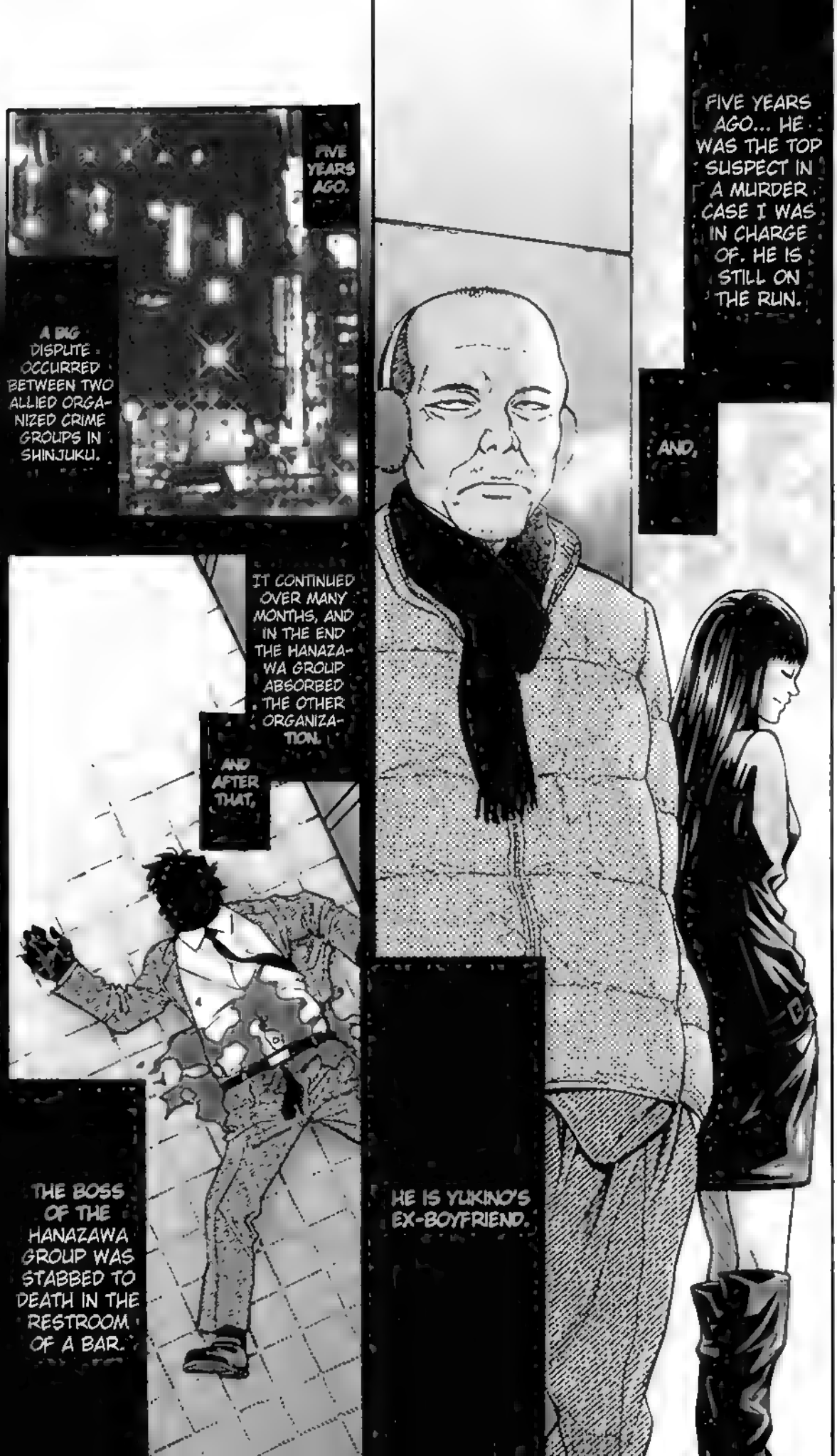
SFX: crowd noises

IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS ALREADY, RIGHT?
...EVEN SO, IS THAT BASTARD REALLY COMING?
...AH, IS THAT SO?
AND BY STANDING ON THESE STREETS EVERY DAY, I'VE GOTTEN TO KNOW THIS CITY MUCH BETTER THAN THE POLICE.

!!
IF YOU ARREST HIM FOR ME, I'LL GIVE YOU THE PRIZE YOU DESIRE MOST♡
MISHI-MA-SAN.
HOW IR-RESPON-SIBLE... I, TOO, HAVE WORK TO...


WELL, LOOK FORWARD TO IT!
Hehe.
A THING I DESIRE, YOU SAY... HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT I...
A-A PRIZE!?

...THE CRIMINAL YUKINO IS TARGETING...


FIVE YEARS AGO.
A BIG DISPUTE OCCURRED BETWEEN TWO ALLIED ORGANIZED CRIME GROUPS IN SHINJUKU.
IT CONTINUED OVER MANY MONTHS, AND IN THE END THE HANAZAWA GROUP ABSORBED THE OTHER ORGANIZATION.
AND AFTER THAT,
THE BOSS OF THE HANAZAWA GROUP WAS STABBED TO DEATH IN THE RESTROOM OF A BAR.
HE IS YUKINO'S EX-BOYFRIEND.
AND,
FIVE YEARS AGO... HE WAS THE TOP SUSPECT IN A MURDER CASE I WAS IN CHARGE OF. HE IS STILL ON THE RUN.

GUNJI WAS BEING CHASED BY BOTH THE POLICE AND THE YAKUZA.

FROM EYEWITNESS TESTIMONIES, IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT THE ONE WHO KILLED THE BOSS WAS TOMOHARU GUNJI (26 Y.O.), A MEMBER OF A TERMINAL BRANCH GROUP BELONGING TO THE ORGANIZATION THAT HAD BEEN ABSORBED.

TL/N: For the meaning of "terminal branch group", refer to chapter 75.

THEY CALL US "WOMEN OF THE CLOTH", YOU KNOW. HEHEHE...

OCCUPATION, "LOITERING WOMAN"...?

YOU ARE GUNJI'S LOVER... HM?

SFX: twitch!

EVEN THOUGH HE'S A YAKUZA, HE DOESN'T HAVE THE GUTS TO START FIGHTS.

HE IS JUST A PITIFUL FELLOW WHO TALKS BIG...

!

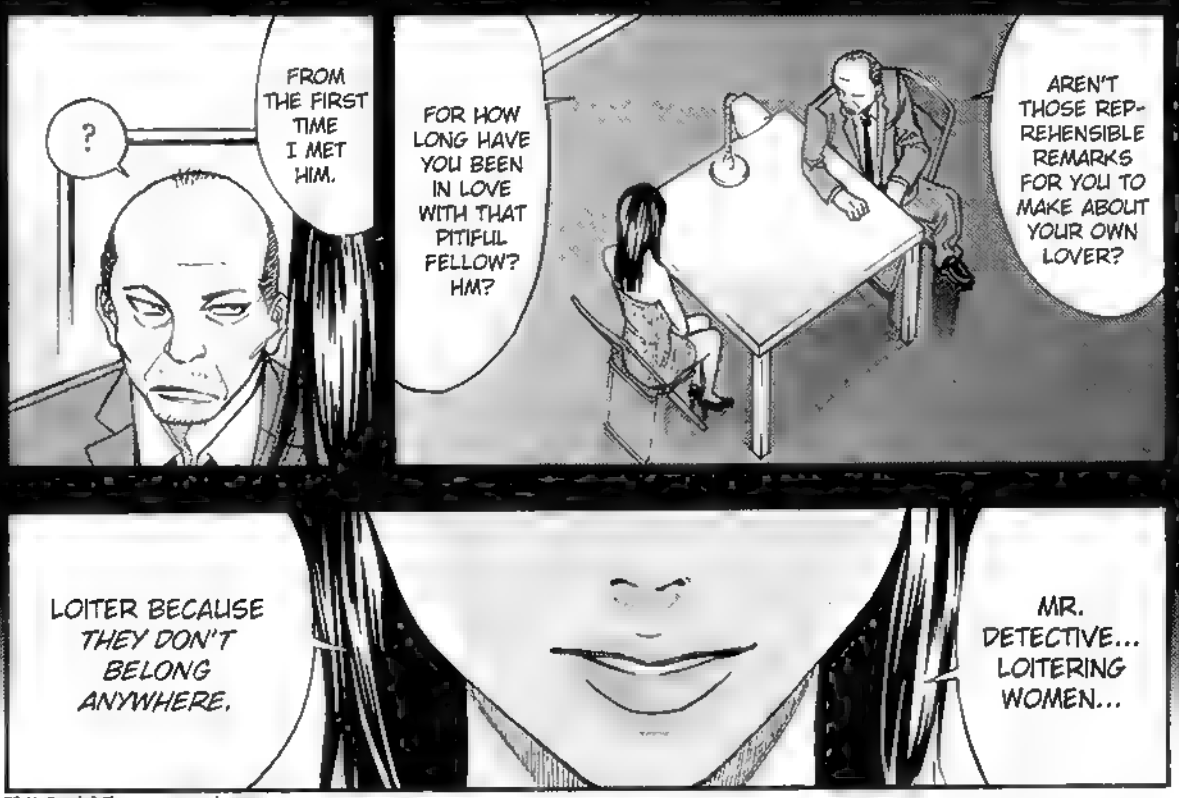
THAT GUY... GUNJI IS A TOTAL WIMP, YOU KNOW!

A LOITERING WOMAN...!? SUCH A FINE LADY!?

MAYBE I SHOULD FIRST ASK HER WHERE SHE LOITERS? JUST IN CASE...

AS PART OF THE INVESTIGATION!

AND ISN'T SHE JUST MY TYPE...


?
FROM THE FIRST TIME I MET HIM.
FOR HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN LOVE WITH THAT PITIFUL FELLOW? HM?
AREN'T THOSE REPREHENSIBLE REMARKS FOR YOU TO MAKE ABOUT YOUR OWN LOVER?
LOITER BECAUSE THEY DON'T BELONG ANYWHERE.
MR. DETECTIVE... LOITERING WOMEN...

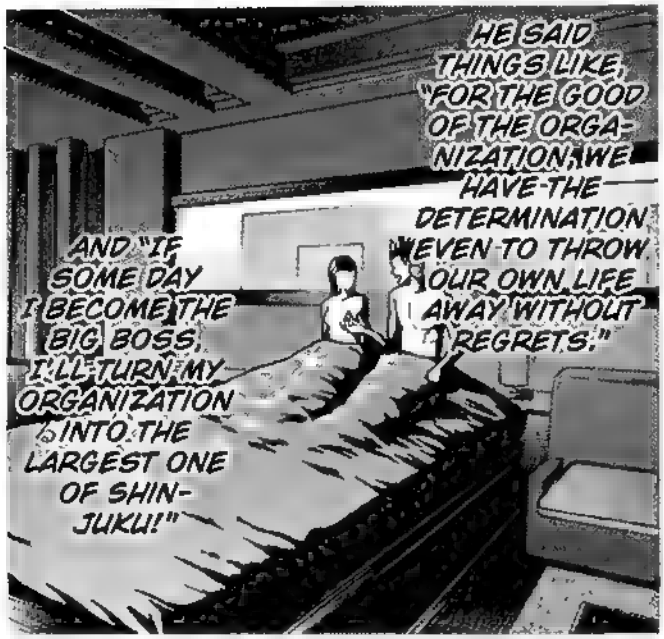
TS/N Really? Then your pimp's slacking.

I HADN'T TAKEN A BATH IN DAYS.
NO PLACE TO LIVE, NO PLACE TO EAT.
SFX. splash splash
BUT THAT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ME, WHO DIDN'T BELONG ANYWHERE.
IT WAS CHRISTMAS EVE THAT DAY.

SFX. chaaa...

I RAN AWAY FROM HOME BECAUSE I DIDN'T BELONG THERE... BUT IN SHINJUKU, A PERSON WITHOUT MONEY ALSO DOESN'T BELONG ANYWHERE.
SO, I JUST LOITERED BY THE WAYSIDE.

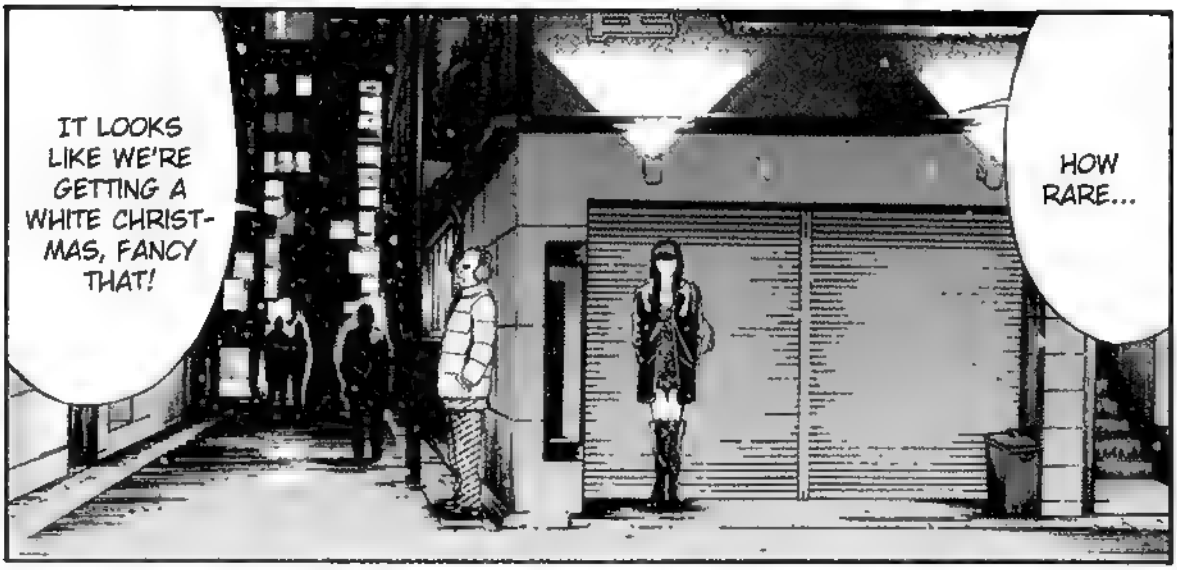
GUNJI, TOO, LIKE MYSELF, MIGHT HAVE FELT HE DIDN'T BELONG IN THE YAKUZA WORLD.
I DON'T KNOW WHY.


HE SAID THINGS LIKE, "FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION, WE HAVE THE DETERMINATION EVEN TO THROW OUR OWN LIFE AWAY WITHOUT REGRETS."
AND "IF SOME DAY I BECOME THE BIG BOSS, I'LL TURN MY ORGANIZATION INTO THE LARGEST ONE OF SHINJUKU!"

HE WOULD ALWAYS SPEAK OF DREAMLIKE, UNACHIEVABLE THINGS LIKE THAT.
WHAT A FOOL, HE WAS.

AND THE MAN WHO SAW ME ALL ALONE IN THAT CONDITION,
THE ONE WHO TALKED TO ME, WAS GUNJI.

SFX. traffic noises


IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GETTING A WHITE CHRISTMAS, FANCY THAT!
HOW RARE...

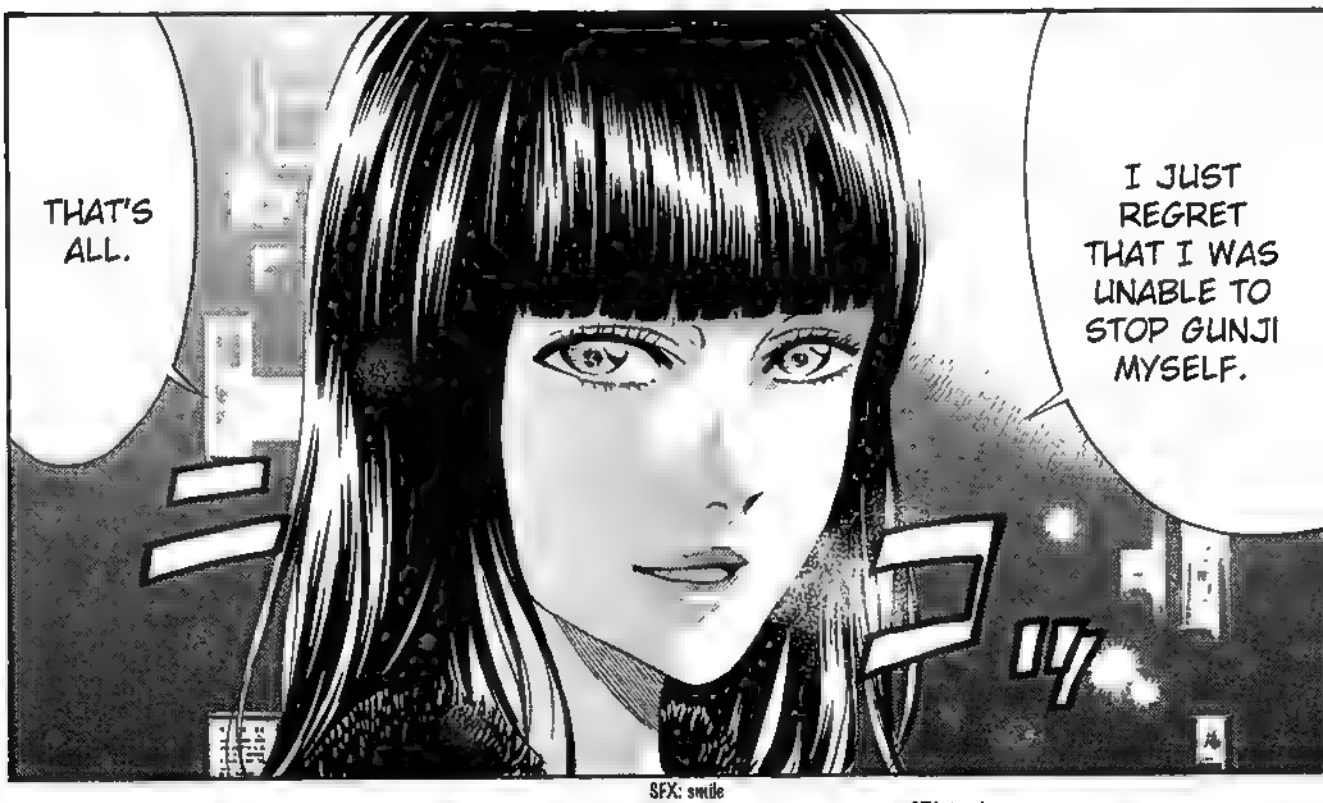
I'LL COME BACK ON CHRISTMAS! JUST LIKE SANTA!
...I HAVE AN IDEA!
HOWEVER, I AM GOING TO COME BACK FOR YOU ONE DAY, WITHOUT FAIL. ONE DAY...

"YUKINO..."
"AFTER I'M DONE WITH THIS JOB, I'M GOING TO LEAVE TOWN FOR A LONG TIME."

WE'RE GOING TO BE TOGETHER AGAIN AND START OVER! ISN'T THAT ROMANTIC, EH...?
DO YOU RECALL? WE MET FOR THE FIRST TIME ON A CHRISTMAS EVE, SO THIS IS GOING TO HELP YOU REMEMBER!

THAT FELLOW, GUNJI, IS NOT JUST THE WIMP YOU KNEW.
I'LL SAY JUST ONE THING, YUKINO.
DURING A GUNFIGHT IN WHICH HE WAS INVOLVED, A STRAY BULLET HIT AND KILLED A 14-YEAR-OLD SCHOOLGIRL.
AND THAT'S NOT ALL.
IN THE TIME THAT HE HAS BEEN ON THE RUN ALL OVER JAPAN, HE HAS ALREADY KILLED TWO YAKUZA PURSUERS.
DON'T MISUNDERSTAND.
IT'S REGRETTABLE, BUT IT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO START OVER WITH THAT MAN...
AS HE IS NOW, GUNJI IS NOT BOUND BY LAW OR THE SYSTEM. HE IS A FIENDISH SERIAL MURDERER.
MOREOVER, THE POLICE INVESTIGATION HAS UNCOVERED, THROUGH REGULAR AND UNDERWORLD CHANNELS,
I JUST FEEL SOME REMORSE.
.....
THAT'S ALL IN THE PAST.
I DON'T THINK OF [redacted] IN THAT WAY AT ALL.
THAT TO RELIEVE THE STRESS OF BEING ON THE RUN, HE HAS STOLEN LARGE QUANTITIES OF STIMULANTS FROM SEVERAL DEALERS.

THAT INCIDENT WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IN THE FIRST PLACE.
THE LAST NIGHT I MET GUNJI... IF I HAD STOPPED HIM BEFORE HE DID SOMETHING STUPID.


THAT'S ALL.
I JUST REGRET THAT I WAS UNABLE TO STOP GUNJI MYSELF.
SFX: smile

SHE REGRETS IT... IS THAT ALL?
I DON'T THINK SO.

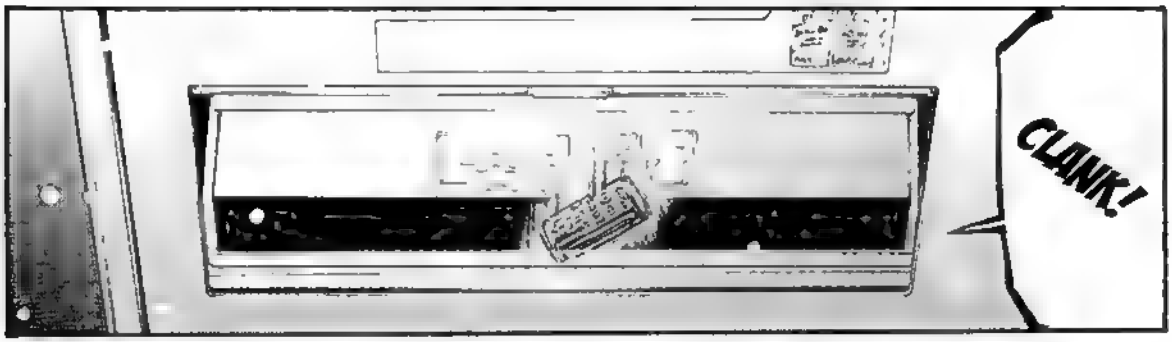
SFX: turn!
...SORRY ABOUT THAT.
SO WILL YOU STOP TELLING ME WEIRD THINGS, MISHIMA-SAN?

HAA
TS/N: He's coming
... YU-
KINO...
HAA
HAA
HAA
YUKINO... YOUR REASONS FOR NOT GIVING UP THIS LOITERING LIFE, AFTER ALL THIS TIME...
ISN'T IT REALLY BECAUSE YOU'RE STILL WAITING FOR GUNJI'S RETURN...?

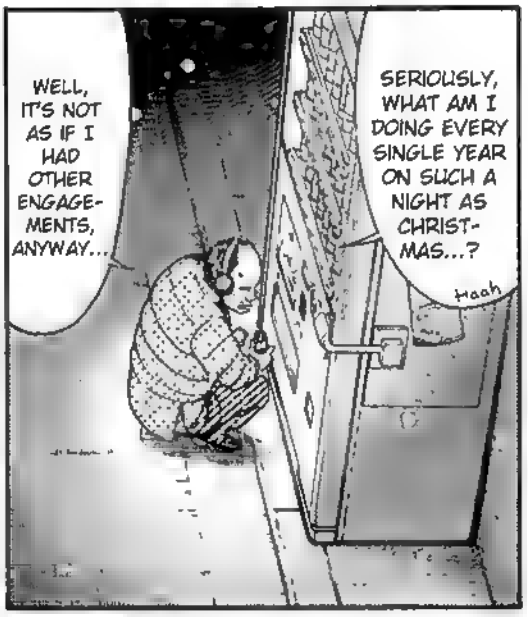
ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

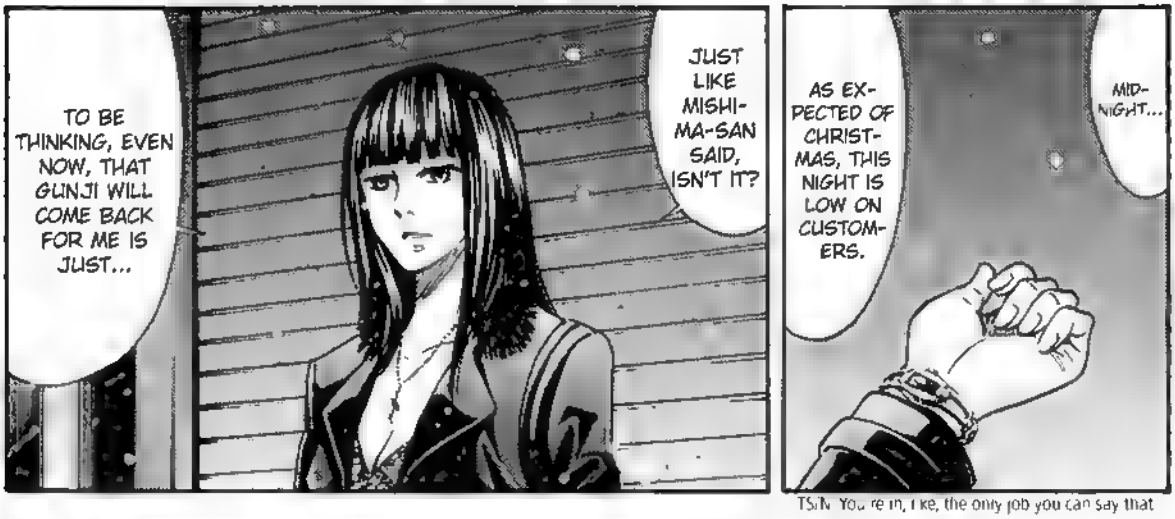

CLANK!

.....
IF YOU ARE ABLE TO ARREST GUNJI, MISHIMA-SAN, I'LL GIVE YOU THE PRIZE YOU DESIRE THE MOST.

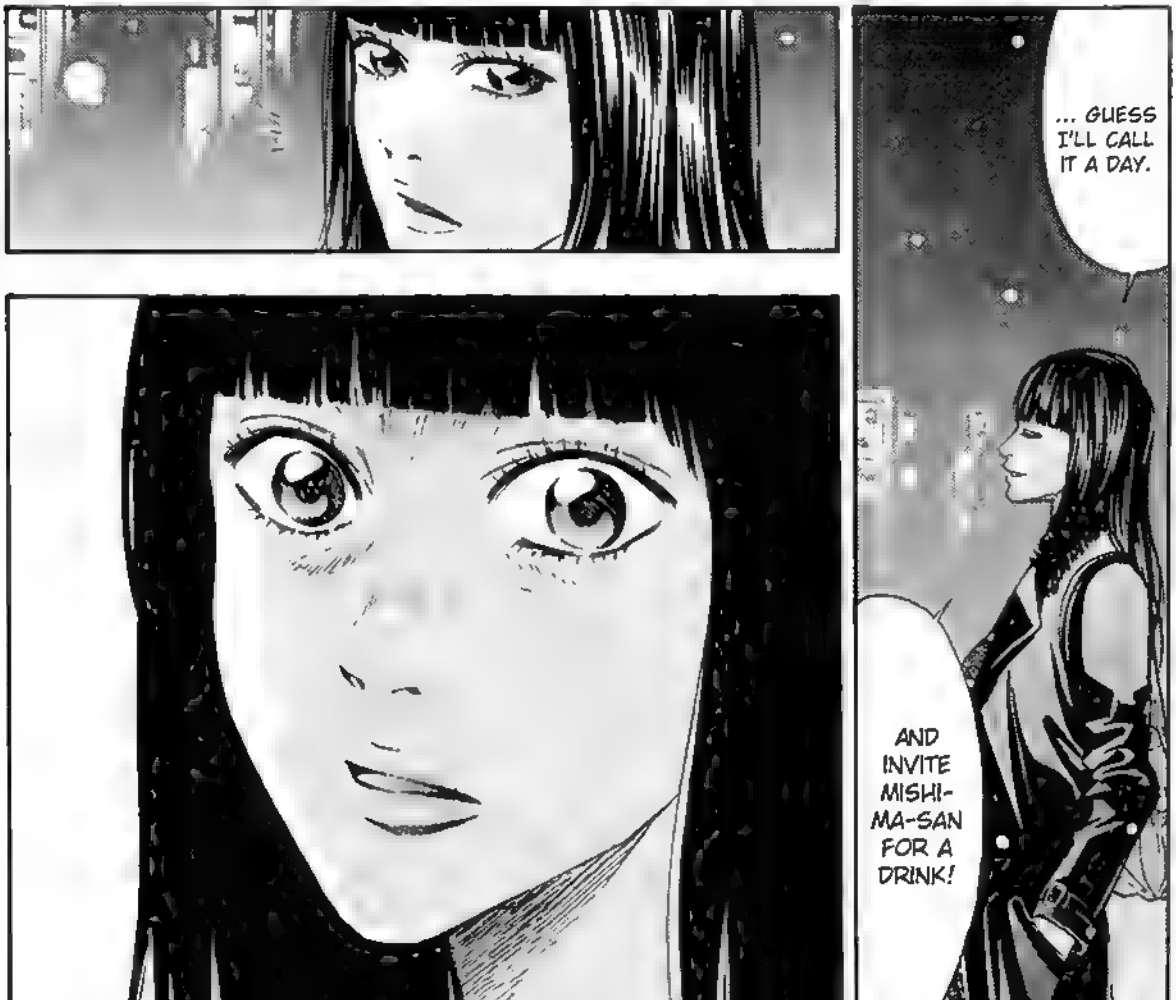

WELL, IT'S NOT AS IF I HAD OTHER ENGAGE-MENTS, ANYWAY...
SERIOUSLY, WHAT AM I DOING EVERY SINGLE YEAR ON SUCH A NIGHT AS CHRIST-MAS...?
Haah

ARRESTING YUKINO'S FORMER LOVER GUNJI BEFORE HER EYES IS AN UNPLEASANT DUTY...
I DON'T REALLY FEEL LIKE DOING THIS.

SFX: hmm
WHAT I DESIRE THE MOST...
... SIGH...
K...


TO BE THINKING, EVEN NOW, THAT GUNJI WILL COME BACK FOR ME IS JUST...
JUST LIKE MISHI-MA-SAN SAID, ISN'T IT?
AS EX-PECTED OF CHRIST-MAS, THIS NIGHT IS LOW ON CUSTOM-ERS.
MID-NIGHT...

TS/N: You're in, like, the only job you can say that



Ouroboros Side Story
SECTION CHIEF MISHIMA'S CASE FILE
Conclusion
GU...
!!

AH...
AAH...
GUNJI
...?

YU-YU-KINO...
I KEPT YOU WAITING ALL THIS TIME...
SFX: thump!
SFX: grip...
!
GRAB!
SFX: running
WAI...

AFTER WE GET A FAKE PASSPORT WE CAN GO OVER-SEAS...
QUICK, LET'S RUN AWAY FROM HERE...
STAY-ING IN SHIN-JUKU IS BAD.
EH...?
I'M SORRY BUT...
I CAN'T GO WITH YOU.
WHAT ABOUT OUR PROMISE!? HUH!? L-LET'S JUST RUN AWAY TOGETH-ER, RIGHT!?
W-WHY!? WHY IS THAT?! HEY!
IF YOU ARE NOT WITH ME...
LET'S GET GOING, QUICK, YUKINO!
RIGHT!?
ALL THOSE F-F-F-F IVE YEARS...
I HAVE LONGED TO MEET YOU...!!
I CAME BACK FOR YOU, YUKINO!!

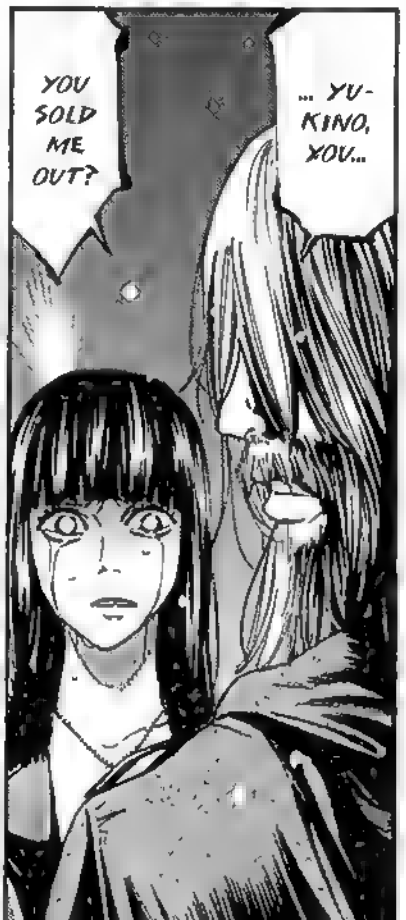
SFX whp

DUE TO THE STRESS OF BEING CONTINUOUSLY ON THE RUN FROM THE POLICE AND THE YAKUZA FOR FIVE YEARS, YOU ENDED UP AGING TERRIBLY...
GUNJI... YOU ARE STILL IN YOUR THIRTIES, AREN'T YOU?
TRY LOOKING AT YOUR FACE ON A MIRROR.
!!

SFX. ba-dump!

JUST SURRENDER PEACEFULLY, GUNJI...!
I'LL SEE TO IT THAT YOU HAVE WARM MEALS AND A FUTON.

SO YOU WENT IN CAHOOTS WITH THE POLICE TO SET A TRAP FOR ME...?
NO...
YOU KNEW I WAS COMING BACK FOR YOU.

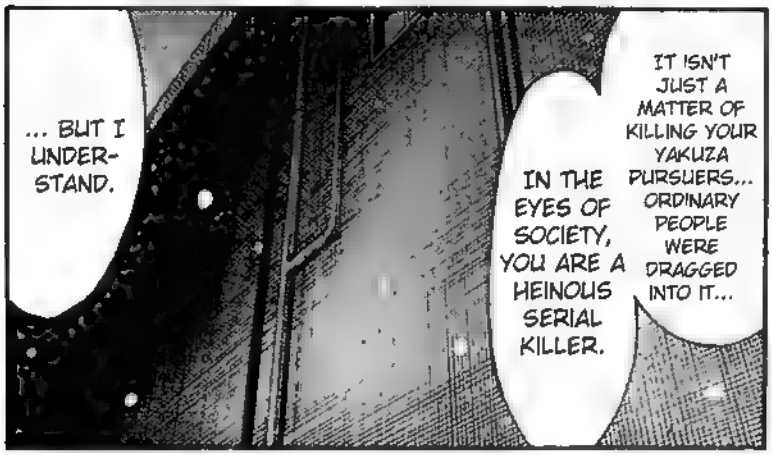

YOU SOLD ME OUT?
... YU-KINO, YOU...

DON'T MISUNDER-STAND, YOU FOOL.

YUKINO RELIED ON THE POLICE FOR THE SAKE OF SAVING YOU.
RIGHT NOW, THE HANAZAWA SYNDICATE IS IN A FRENZY AND SEARCHING FOR YOU.
EVEN IF YOU ESCAPE NOW, IT'S A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL YOU ARE MURDERED.

SHE IS STILL IN LOVE WITH YOU,
YUKINO, THAT IS.
Tsk...
Scratch scratch
IN ANY CASE, SHE THINKS IT'S PREFERABLE TO BE CAUGHT BY THE POLICE THAN BY THE YAKUZA.
HOW COME YOU DON'T GET IT?

... MI-
SHIMA-
SAN...
DON'T MAKE IT SO THAT YUKINO'S FEELINGS ARE WASTED, IDIOT!

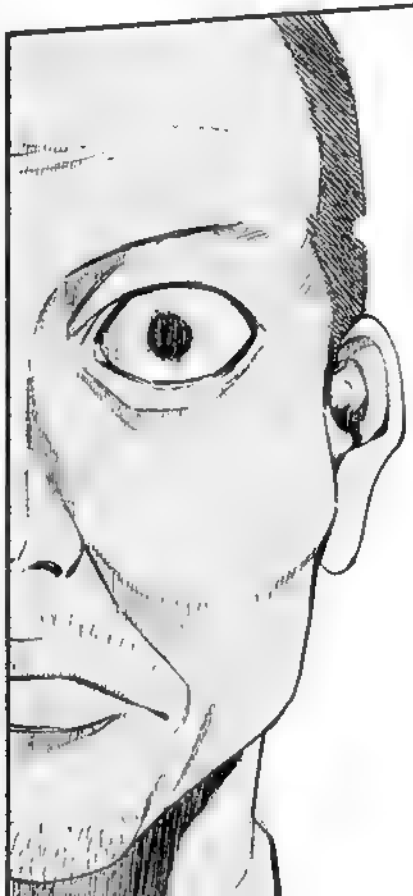

... BUT I UNDER-
STAND.
IN THE EYES OF SOCIETY, YOU ARE A HEINOUS SERIAL KILLER.
IT ISN'T JUST A MATTER OF KILLING YOUR YAKUZA PURSUERS... ORDINARY PEOPLE WERE DRAGGED INTO IT...

GUN-
JI...
LET'S PUT AN END TO THIS A-
READY.

YOU ARE NOT AN EVIL PERSON.
THE THINGS YOU HAVE DONE CANNOT BE FORGIVEN, FOR SURE... BUT,

TS.N How about now? s he ev.l now?

YOU HAVE BE-TRAYED ME!!
DON'T FUCK WITH ME, BITCH!



GYAAAAH!

SFX gaaah

"HE IS A CRIMINAL, AND THEREFORE SCUM"... I DIDN'T THINK LIKE THAT.
I MIGHT HAVE MADE A MISTAKE AS A DETECTIVE... I...

BUT YOU REALLY ARE THE WORST OF THE WORST...

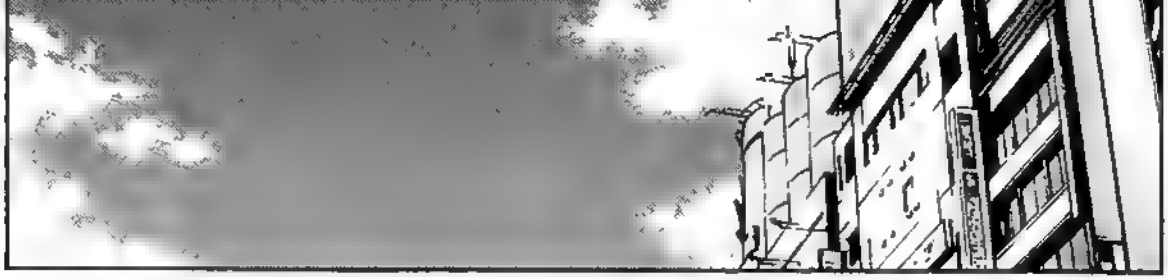
GUNJI:..

DEEP DOWN, YOU ARE NOTHING BUT SCUM,

A BASTARD WHO MAKES PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT YOU CRY, YOU RETARD...!

STOP HIM...!!

MISHIMA-SAN... PLEASE... STOP...



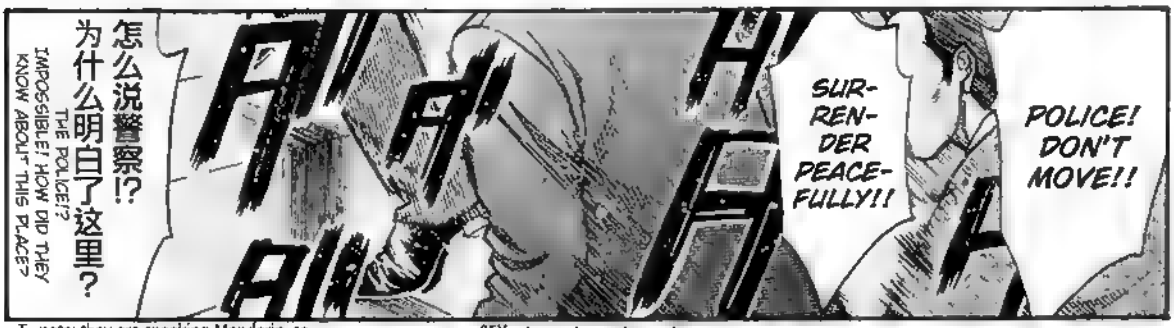
A CERTAIN DAY IN JANUARY.

!
WEL-COME TO OUR STO-
SLIDE!
SFX: step
TS/N: Drunk this early?
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, MR. MANAG-ER. SEEMS IN THE END YOU WEREN'T FIRED, WERE YOU?
MESSRS... DETEC-TIVES...
探偵事務所
MIURA

T.N. That oughtta hurt
PLEASE LET US HAVE A LOOK AT THE BREAK ROOM INSIDE!
EH? EH?
Y-YEAH, THANKS TO YOUR...
!
SFX. tchant
SFX. step step step
SFX: rummaging
MR. MANAGER... IN THIS SHOP, APART FROM YOU THERE AREN'T ANY EMPLOYEES, RIGHT?
!
WAI... WHAT ARE YOU DO-
M-MISTER DETEC-TIVE, WHAT IS THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN!?
SFX: ba-dump!
WE HAVE HAD EYE-WITNESS REPORTS ABOUT THIS.
THEY SAW YOU VISITING SEVERAL DIFFERENT CONVENIENCE STORES TO PURCHASE BENTO BOXES EVERY DAY.
SFX. rustle...
APPEAR TO CORRESPOND TO AT LEAST FIVE PEOPLE.
BY THE WAY, THEIR BEST BEFORE DATE IS THE SAME.
THESE EMPTY BENTO BOXES IN THE RUBBISH BAGS,

THE CRIMINALS ARE HERE RIGHT NOW, AREN'T THEY? IN THIS VERY BUILDING, IN THE VACANT ROOMS ABOVE US.
THERE HAS BEEN ZERO EYEWITNESS INFORMATION ON A CRIMINAL GANG IN THE RUN... AND NO MATTER HOW MUCH I THOUGHT ABOUT THAT, IT WAS SUSPICIOUS, BUT... THERE WAS NOTHING.

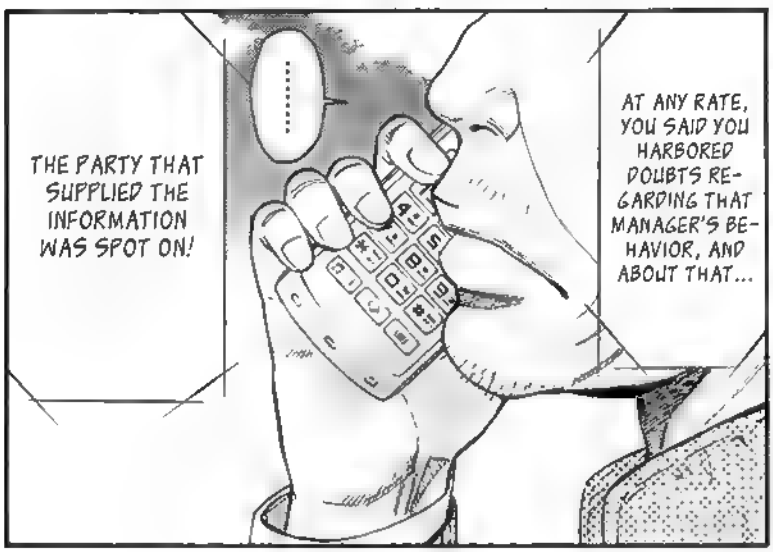
SFX. point...



T.L note: they are speaking Mandarin, so we kept the symbols.

SFX: stomp stomp stomp stomp

SFX: crowd noises


.....
THE PARTY THAT SUPPLIED THE INFORMATION WAS SPOT ON!
AT ANY RATE, YOU SAID YOU HARBORED DOUBTS REGARDING THAT MANAGER'S BEHAVIOR, AND ABOUT THAT...

.....

SECTION CHIEF? HELLO?

SECTION CHI-

BEEP

SFX: click!

THIS IS JUST A SCRATCH.

IS THAT WOUND ALREADY FINE?

THANK YOU, MISHI-MA-SAN...

YOU WENT SO FAR AS COMING TO THE HOSPI-TAL IN PERSON...

TSK. Yoh, she'll be giving handjobs in no time.

!!

WHICH REMINDS ME, I STILL HAVE TO GIVE YOU, MISHIMA-SAN, THE PRIZE I TALKED ABOUT...

?

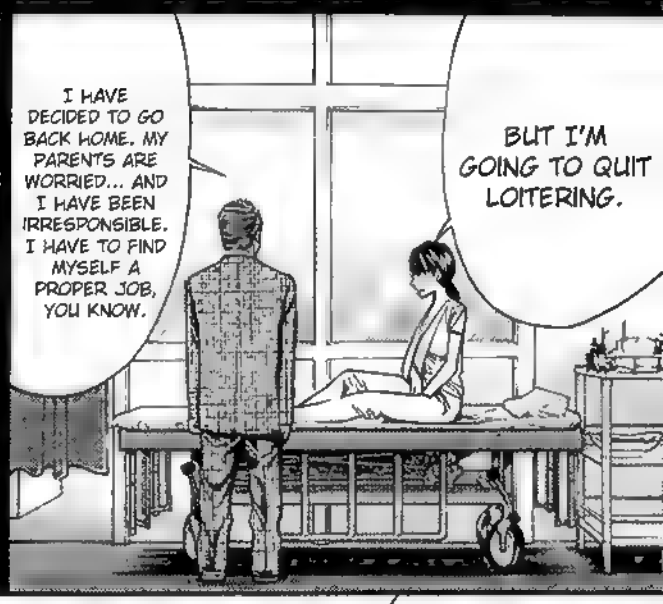
I TOLD YOU BEFORE, DIDN'T I?

LOITERING WOMEN KNOW MUCH MORE ABOUT SHINJUKU THAN COPS.

!

HERE IT IS, YOUR PRIZE.♡

MI-SHIMA-SAN.
THANK YOU FOR CAPTURING THAT MAN, GUNJI, WITHOUT KILLING HIM.
SHIT, YOU'RE HEAVY!

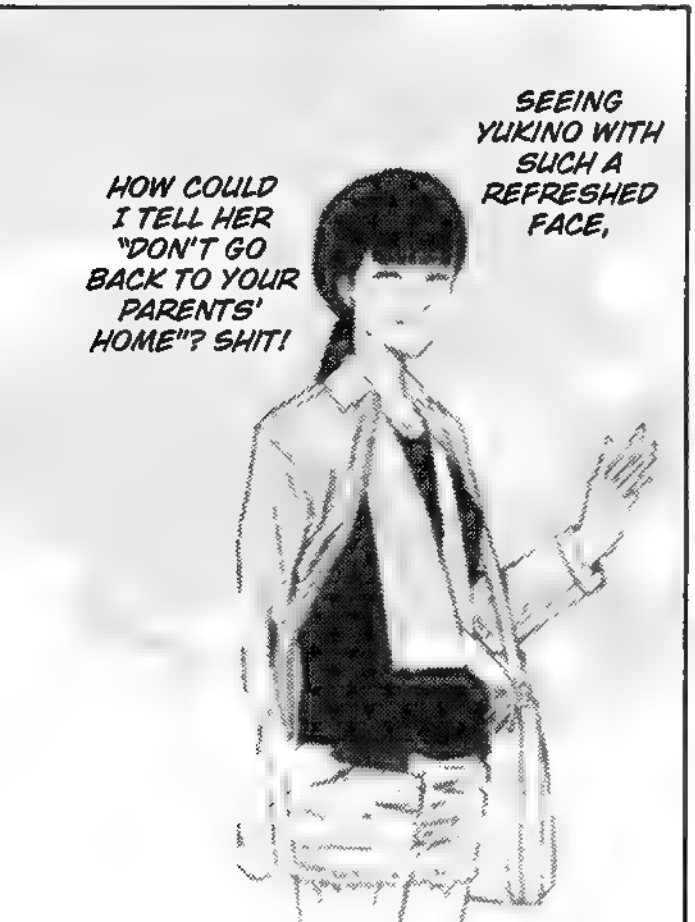

I HAVE DECIDED TO GO BACK HOME. MY PARENTS ARE WORRIED... AND I HAVE BEEN IRRESPONSIBLE. I HAVE TO FIND MYSELF A PROPER JOB, YOU KNOW.
BUT I'M GOING TO QUIT LOITERING.

CAN FINALLY SEARCH FOR THE PLACE WHERE I BELONG.
WITH THIS, I, TOO,

N-NO WAY...! SO IN THE END THE PRIZE WAS INFORMATION ON THE HIDEOUT OF THE CRIMINALS...!!
RIp RIp RIp RIp RIp...
THANK YOU SO MUCH, MISHIMA-SAN...

SFX: gnash gnash

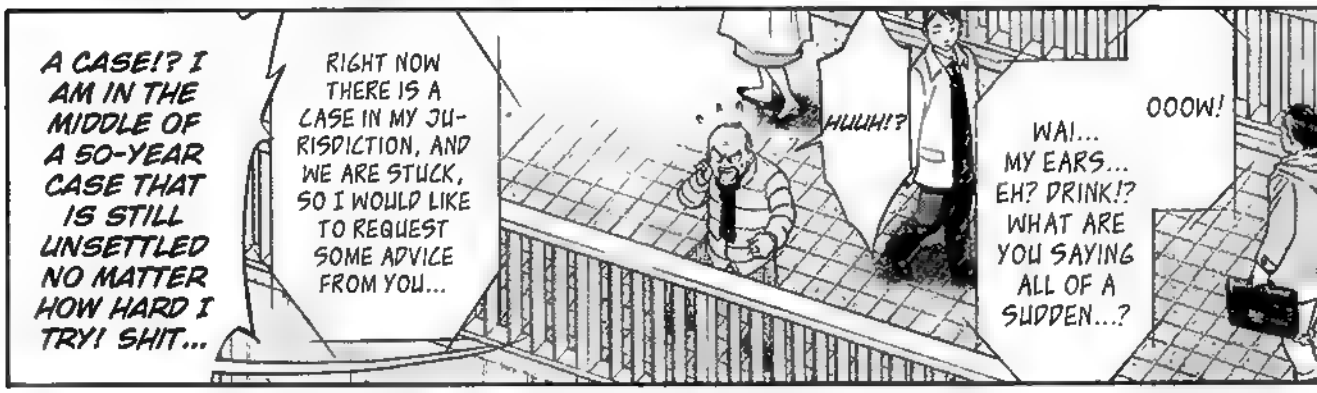
SFX: scatter!



WHAT I DESIRED WAS A LOVER! A STEADY ONE!! A MARRIAGE PAART-NEEER!!
RIGHT NOW, NO MATTER HOW BIG AN ACHIEVEMENT CATCHING THEM WAS, I AM NOT HAPPY AT ALL!!

SFX. gaaah!

On phone. Ryuzaki


A CASE!? I AM IN THE MIDDLE OF A 50-YEAR CASE THAT IS STILL UNSETTLED NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY! SHIT...
RIGHT NOW THERE IS A CASE IN MY JURISDICTION, AND WE ARE STUCK, SO I WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST SOME ADVICE FROM YOU...
HUUH!?
WAI... MY EARS... EH? DRINK!? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ALL OF A SUDDEN...?
OOOW!

YOU FILTHY TRAI-TOR!!
HUH!? WAI... WHAT ARE YOU SAY-
AH! THEN, BASTARD, YOU DID IT WITH HIBI-NO-CHAN!? YOU DID IT, DIDN'T YOU!?
N-NO, THAT'S NOT...
ARE YOU SAYING YOU TAKE ORDERS FROM THAT BANDO BASTARD AND NOT FROM ME, IS THAT IT!?

Takenouchi Katsumi

Suspicion level: ★★☆ DSG Faction

MPD Criminal Investigation Bureau, First Division (Director)/Superintendent

The son of Takenouchi Sayoshige, a member of the Lower House, and with strong political connections. Is probably destined to move into the political world himself.

Hijiri Yukito

Suspicion level: ★★★ Gold Watch Organization

Metropolitan Police Department Deputy Superintendent-General/Superintendent Supervisor

The boss of the largest clique in the MPD, the Deputy Superintendent-General Faction". Nicknamed "Vice-General". Did he pull the strings from the shadows to have the Superintendent-General sniped!?

Hibino Kunihiko

Suspicion level: ★★★ Gold Watch Organization

Metropolitan Police Department Personnel and Training Bureau Inspection Office/Chief Superintendent

A police officer to the very core, carries the cruel, inhuman face of a man who discarded his only daughter for the sake of the organization.

Is the man who holds clues to the case from 17 years ago among these people?

Kitagawa Kei'ichirō

Suspicion level: ★★☆

MPD Superintendent-General

Barely escaped death after being sniped by an unknown person. The head of the Police System, the influence the position wields is immeasurable.

Washio Kei

Suspicion level: ★★☆ DSG Faction

MPD Criminal Investigation Bureau, First Division (Administrative officer)/Chief Superintendent

An influential person in the MPD First Division. To preserve the reputation of the Police, is willing to carry out cover-ups of scandals.

Shiro Bando

Suspicion level: ★☆☆

Metropolitan Police Department Criminal Investigation Bureau, First Division/Inspector

The MPD First Division's one wolf. Doesn't disclose information about himself and carries many enigmas.

Mishima Kaoru

Suspicion level: ★☆☆

Shinjuku Second Division Criminal Affairs Section /Inspector

Has previous experience working in the MPD First Division. Has an amiable personality, but doesn't talk much about his past.

Lurking in the shadows of the Police is the "Man with the Golden Watch": Who could he be?

Who's GOLD WATCH?

DETECTIVE'S LIFE

THE WORST MOMENT OF A SHIN'ICHI CHONO OF SHINJUKU'S FIRST DIVISION

INSPECTOR

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